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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Do you think the police are doing enough to solve burglary cases in the CNMI?

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INSIDE

FOCUS



Lenses shield photographers as they captured history on Sept. 11, 2001.

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OVERDRIVE



The 2013 Nissan Altima is a stylish, roomy and great-handling car.

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LIFE & STYLE



Jennifer Lawrence nearly turned down the role that made her a star.

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Fitial defends actions

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial didn't respond yesterday to each of the 16 allegations contained in a resolution to impeach him but issued a public statement urging the public and lawmakers to focus instead on saving the pension system, healthcare, utilities services, and expanding revenue-generating industries.

» **Impeachment panel sets 12 meetings**

This came even as the Special Committee on Impeachment already scheduled 12 meetings starting on Thursday.

In his four-page statement, the governor "begged" for people's patience and forgiveness on the "shortcomings of those who do not understand my motivations or my actions."

He also blamed the Senate and "a few chosen elected individuals" for using the solutions he offered "as a negative political tool in order to cover up their years of inaction and lack of leadership."

See FITIAL on **Page 4**

Water, wastewater electric charges increase

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. raised anew its water and wastewater

electricity charges as a result of the increased levelized energy adjustment clause rate that took effect last week.

Both water electric charge and

wastewater electric charges are only adjusted when the LEAC electric rate is changed.

LEAC is part of the customer's bill

See WATER on **Page 4**

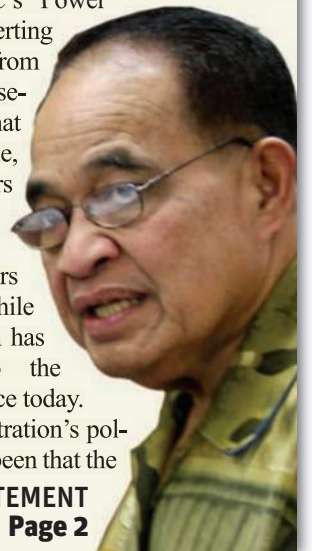
FITIAL'S STATEMENT

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial issued yesterday the following statement to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands:

"It greatly saddens me when those who do not understand my actions accuse me of wrongdoing, which has contributed to the current dispute regarding CUC's Power Plant 1. By diverting our attention from addressing the serious issues that face our people, these detractors turn your attention away from their years of inaction while in office, which has contributed to the problems we face today.

"My administration's policy has always been that the

See STATEMENT on **Page 2**



Ex-DJ allegedly burns Power 99 vehicle

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A disgruntled former disc jockey of Power 99 Studio at Paseo de Marianas in western Garapan allegedly set fire to the company's vehicle early yesterday morning.

Aziz Mettao, 27, also known as Tayo, was arrested after a witness allegedly saw him fleeing from the burning car.

The vehicle—a Hyundai Tucson with license plate ADY-761—sustained extensive damage inside. The window glasses were shattered and the upper portion of the front windshield had cracks.

A firefighter extinguished the blaze after a few minutes.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to release information about the incident.

See EX-DJ on **Page 4**

A Hyundai Tucson owned by Power 99 in Garapan sustained extensive damage after former disc jockey Aziz Mettao allegedly set fire to it using a molotov cocktail early yesterday morning.

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Slight decrease seen in number of registered voters. **PAGE 3**
Dynasty buyer pays casino commission \$175K but... **PAGE 6**



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Local

STATEMENT

From Page 1

actions of the Executive Branch are open for examination, and if errors are made, then people must be held accountable. There are numerous agencies that constantly scrutinize the actions of the Executive Branch; and they provide a credible, independent review. However, the current proceedings seem to be based on politics and the upcoming election, and directly undermine the administration's efforts to address the serious problems facing our community.

"The problems that face our community are undoubtedly the most serious since we became a Commonwealth. The problems we face today began many years ago, but have only gotten worse with the departure of the garment industry and the federal takeover of immigration.

"These two occurrences have significantly undermined government revenues and exposed the inadequacies in our healthcare system, retirement fund, and public utilities. Due to the shortage of government revenues, we can no longer subsidize these inadequate structures and we are now forced to make significant changes to each of them in order to correct the longstanding problems of inefficiency, inadequate revenues, and improper service. The initiation of change in longstanding government programs does not come easy because people have vested interests, and it requires accommodation and compromise.

"A prime example of this can be recalled when CUC was plagued with months of scheduled rolling blackouts. As a result, many families suffered from damage to their electric appliances due to these blackouts. The immediate solution then was to engage Aggreko to provide a temporary source of stable and reliable power. It can also be recalled that both the Legislature and PUC opposed the administration's request for assistance from Aggreko. In the end, CUC was able to make the necessary repairs to their diesel engines while Aggreko provided reliable and stable power to the ratepayers on Saipan, and ultimately, we ended the rolling blackouts.

"However, as we have seen with the utility system blackouts, inadequacy of healthcare, and insolvency of the retirement system, sitting by idly and hoping that the problem will go away is no longer acceptable. We have to make fundamental changes to these systems if we are to balance our economy and develop a plan for the future. I have invited the leadership of the Legislature to discuss, during two separate Leadership Summits, the problems besieging our people today. Unfortunately, it has only been the House leadership who has continued the discussion on finding possible solutions to our problems. The Senate and a few chosen elected individuals have chosen instead to use the solutions to our problems as a negative political tool in order to cover up their years of inaction and lack of leadership to address our most serious of issues.

"Currently, we are entering the most difficult stage of change, and we need the assistance and support of the community to establish a government with long-term viability. As a community, we need to resolve four major issues within the next 90 days: restructuring of the Retirement Fund; restructuring of the public healthcare system;

lowering of utility costs; and expansion of our revenue generating industries. All of these issues are complex in and of itself, and it will require all of us to make compromises; but we do not have the luxury of doing nothing, so let's talk about what we are doing in these four areas.

"Probably the most difficult task is the restructuring of the retirement system as it directly affects many of us financially. We need to devise a retirement system that provides long-term benefits that can be afforded by the government. There is no one simple solution; and it will take some time to resolve. I think we are on the right track with the extension of Social Security and providing for the withdrawal of funds. Resolution of the long-term debt of current retiree benefits will be difficult, and will require give and take to balance revenues and costs and this is the next step. The government is committed to resolution of this problem, and I am hopeful that the initial steps of extension of federal programs and voluntary withdrawal will allow us to reduce the outstanding liabilities and identify an acceptable compromise. This is probably our biggest challenge because of the costs involved and the direct personal effect this program has on families.

"The second biggest challenge that we must address within the next 90 days is the Commonwealth's healthcare system. The current system is not working as we have

problem is the reliance on antiquated diesel for electric generation, and we must break this model. I have made it clear that I am not satisfied with our progress to date in this area, as families are demanding an end to the ever-increasing costs of utilities. In order to escape this structure, we have to look at alternative energy sources such as solar, geothermal, nuclear, and improved diesel engines.

"It is this last issue, improved diesel engines, that has ignited significant controversy. As has been reported, the Commonwealth was approached concerning the possibility of construction of a ship rebuilding facility. This ship rebuilding project would facilitate the United States military buildup in Guam by presenting a local site for repair of vessels and bring considerable high-paying jobs to our economy. However, in discussions with promoters, they identified that the only feasible site was the location of the current CUC Power Plant in Lower Base. In order to attract this development, consideration had to be given for relocation of the existing power plant.

"In order to examine the feasibility of the relocation of this plant, a proposal was made for the construction of a new facility. In this examination, our objective was to reduce the cost of electric utility generation from its current level of approximately \$0.38 cents to \$0.18 cents per kilowatt hour through the use of more efficient diesel engines. If the

proposal cannot achieve this objective, it is not acceptable. In order to facilitate this examination, a proposed model was presented to the Commonwealth with the understanding that it was subject to our evaluation and review. We will be conducting this analysis, and if it achieves our \$0.18 per kilowatt hour goal, I will wholeheartedly endorse it and recommend its implementation; if not, then we must continue our examination of alternatives. The proposal for the construction and financing of a new power plant is not a simple task and requires

the commitment of significant resources in the development of a proposal and is not undertaken lightly. I am grateful to the current developers who have undertaken an independent assessment, and are willing to invest in our community, and I welcome their proposal. Once the associated analysis is completed, we can move on from this point; however, in the meantime, we are still moving forward with implementation of 10 megawatts of new solar power and continued exploration of geothermal.

"The final area that will require significant change within the next 90 days is the expansion of our revenue generating industry. Tourism has brought to our islands hundreds of thousands of tourists and with them have come much needed monies spent on our islands. With the decline of the garment industry, the importance of our tourism industry has increased. The Japanese tsunami and change in the Asian economy has made even more important the development of new tourist markets in China, Russia, and Korea; however, our lack of air service and hotel accommodations has hampered expansion of these markets. We cannot wait for others to solve this problem, so we have been holding direct discussions with investors to initiate new direct airline service from China to the Commonwealth in order to increase the number of tourists to our islands. We are hopeful that within the next sixty days we will be able to es-

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The current proceedings seem to be based on politics and the upcoming election, and directly undermine the administration's efforts to address the serious problems facing our community.

an expensive structure that provides inadequate care. Providing adequate healthcare in the Commonwealth is particularly challenged by our small population; providing care on three islands; and the high cost of meeting United States standards of care. In order to provide adequate care will require a complete restructuring of the current system. Currently, we are having the entire healthcare system analyzed in order to present an independent review of operations and recommendations for improvement. This study will identify our current shortcomings and present a template for restructuring and is scheduled to be completed within 45 days. I'm certain that this study will call for significant changes in our healthcare system, and as a community, we have to evaluate these recommendations and agree to a plan that meets our healthcare needs within our financial constraints.

"The third significant challenge that we must address within the next 90 days is that of the continuing high cost of utilities. The high cost of power is directly affecting every family on the island and is undermining our economy. Every single day, I hear stories of the impact of utility costs on families and businesses. Time and time again, people say that the monthly utility cost is one of the highest household expenses rivaling those of housing and food. In every instance where a long-term business closes, they cite the high cost of power as one of the principal factors. At the root of our



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Korea "Four Men" Quiz Show



Korean television network **KBS** featured a free travel package to **Tinian** on its recently aired "**Quiz Show Four Men**."

The quiz show provided extensive coverage of the Northern Marianas via one of the country's major network channels and helped promote Tinian as a summer vacation destination.

The popular quiz show airs for 50-minutes on Sunday mornings and has a program rating of 8.8 percent. On two shows over the summer, the final winning team received a chance at a travel package to Tinian valued at \$5,000. **Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino** joined the **Marianas Visitors Authority** in the



television promotion by provided four nights stay with breakfast and more.

The total estimated exposure value of the promotion exceeded \$60,000.



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

REGISTRATION FOR MID-TERM POLL CLOSES

Slight decrease seen in number of registered voters

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Registration for the Nov. 6 mid-term elections closed Friday with the Commonwealth Election Commission posting a total of 16,585 registered voters. This is a very slight reduction compared to the number of voters in the 2010 mid-term elections,

which was at 16,601.

Robert A. Guerrero, the commission's executive director, said yesterday that Friday's figure is expected to slightly increase in the coming weeks once they receive all mail postmarked Sept. 7 from off-island voters.

Included in the 16,585 registered voters are the 343 absentee voters listed on the agency's

records and a portion of NMDs (Northern Marianas descents) registered with the agency.

According to Guerrero, the commission posted a total of 5,129 NMDs in its registry, which includes those who are under 18 years of age.

Joint meeting for NMC regents, BOE eyed

The Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College and the CNMI Board of Education will soon get together to talk about how they can work together to improve the delivery of quality education and services to CNMI students.

NMC president Sharon Y. Hart, Ph.D., told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she will finalize the meeting schedule with Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan, Ph.D. A final schedule will be known after today's meeting.

The boards of NMC and PSS separately mentioned the upcoming joint assembly in recent meetings.

"In the spirit of continuous improvement, the NMC Board of Regents had placed into their plan of work for this fiscal year to meet officially with the members of the Board of Education. The purpose of the meeting will be to address key issues and strategies that will advance the working relationship between these two boards and between the largest educational providers here in the CNMI," said Hart.

PSS offers programs from kindergarten to high school, while NMC is the only community college in the Commonwealth.

NMC offers, among other courses, a bachelor's degree program for elementary education and certification for other courses such as special education and early intervention programs, which benefit the school system.

Every year, graduates of the college's elementary education program are hired by the Public School System to increase its teachers' pool.

Each year, a big bulk of NMC enrollees are from public high schools. (*Moneth G. Deposa*)

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Financial Aid Family Night in Koblerville

The College Access Challenge Grant will be hosting a "Financial Aid Family Night" at the Koblerville Youth Learning Center on Sept. 18, 2012, at 5pm. The community will learn more about tuition assistance and how to fill out the forms. (*PR*)

MHS Class of '83 sets meeting

The MHS Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to join their general meeting this Friday, Sept. 14, 2012, at the Beach Road pavilion, Garapan, 7pm. If you have any question, call Tonnei Camacho at 483-9665. (*PR*)

Credit union members to wait a little longer

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Members of the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union who wish to withdraw their savings will have to wait a little longer after the Office of Public Auditor announced yesterday it has yet to hire a company that will audit the union.

Public Auditor Michael Pai said the request for proposal for the union's audit is still being processed. "A request for proposal is still being processed by the government for the services of an independent CPA firm to perform the audit of the credit union. As such, no firm has been contracted yet," he said.

This development disappointed many union members.

"I hope they will find way to expedite this audit because it's the only reason why the union is withholding the release of our monies," said one government employee who has been waiting to cash out the \$800 balance of her savings from the union.

Many employees of the public hospital withdrew their savings and closed out their membership with the union early this year.

In interviews yesterday, many said the union started refusing to

release their monies in February due to the lack of signatories to the check following the expiration of the terms of union board members, including former chair Angel Hocog.

"After a few months, we were told to wait for the comple-

» OPA says no audit firm conducting audit yet

tion of the audit which they admitted hasn't started yet!" said another affected former member who has over \$1,000 with the union.

Press secretary Angel Demapan told *Saipan Tribune* Friday that withdrawal requests remain pending until an audit of the union's finances is completed. He said the organization has never had an audit since 2008.

When asked about the pending withdrawal applications, Demapan said he doesn't know the total number but assured that the Fitial administration is committed to supporting the union for its operational needs. The union is not funded by the central government; it is sustained by members' deposits and loan payments.

The union was formed in 1995. It was authorized to borrow up to \$2 million from the NMI Retirement Fund, which early this year sued the union for the outstanding loan.

DCCA chief 'disagrees' with court on employee's termination

Department of the Community and Cultural Affairs Secretary Melvin Faisao said he "respectfully" disagrees with a court decision ordering the reinstatement of a demoted juvenile probation supervisor at the Division of Youth Services.

Associate Judge David Wiseman reversed on Aug. 25 Faisao's decision to terminate Sylvio Ada for allegedly deceiving the government in December 2009 by justifying a trip to and from Rota by claiming a bogus court hearing for a juvenile probation client.

Faisao told *Saipan Tribune* via email Thursday that the decision to terminate Ada was based on whether or not he did the work for which he traveled to Rota, while the court's decision focused on whether or not there was a legitimate reason for Ada to travel to the southern island.

According to Faisao, Ada attended a juvenile probation client's court hearing, which was not in the court calendar on the day of his trip to Rota. He said

Ada also did not speak with the juvenile in question, the juvenile's parents or the attorney general prosecuting the case.

Faisao said Ada only spoke to the public defender, "whose testimony was that they only briefly greeted one another outside the courtroom."

Likewise, Ada requested to travel to Rota on that day to conduct two home studies on other juveniles but Ada's own witness testified that Ada was unable to find those juveniles and asked the witness to do the home studies.

Faisao maintained that Ada submitted a travel report detailing what was said and done during the hearing which "never occurred" and described the home studies which he didn't conduct.

"While the DCCA office will follow the order of the court, this should not be interpreted to mean that it will not continue to take action against those employees it finds who have wasted or abused limited funds," said Faisao. (*Clarissa V. David*)

Based on commission records, there are 13,555 registered voters on Saipan; 1,140 on Tinian; and 1,620 on Rota.

Election districts 1 to 5 cover the areas and villages of Saipan, while districts 6 and 7 cover Tinian and Rota, respectively.

For election district 1, registered voters total 4,451, broken down into San Antonio, 836; San Vicente, 2,546; and Koblerville, 1,069.

For election district 2, which covers the villages of Chalan Kanoa and Susupe, the number of voters is 1,386.

For election district 3, Oleai voters total 901, while Garapan has 2,466, for a total of 3,367 registered voters.

Election district 4 has 1,731 registered voters: Tanapag, 619; San Roque, 570; Capital Hill, 415; and Northern Islands, 127.

Election district 5, which covers Kagman, has 2,620 registered voters.

Election district 6, which covers Tinian, has 1,410 while election district 7, Rota, has 1,620.

The mid-term elections is on Nov. 6 with the following positions up for grabs: 20 seats in the House of Representatives; three seats in the Senate; three seats in the Board of Education; all municipal council positions; the retention of judges; and one position for U.S. delegate.

There are also three legislative initiatives for the voters to

ratify: House Legislative Initiative 17-2, which will make the attorney general an elected position; Senate Legislative Initiative 17-12, which seeks to allow the Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents to revise NMC's mission statement; and House Legislative Initiative 17-5, which will allow the government to float a bond.

Guerrero said the commission printed 17,500 ballots for this year's election. They expect to receive the ballots next week in time for mailing them out to absentee voters.

The ballots will come from Alabama, where the main printing plant of the commission's vendor is based.



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Hawaii lawyer, ex-OPA chief top nominees for Fund trustee

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Hawaii attorney William J. Plum and former public auditor Michael Sablan are among the top nominees for the position of the NMI Retirement Fund's trustee *ad litem*.

At yesterday's status conference in the Betty Johnson lawsuit, U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood said that Plum is the first choice considering his impressive resume, but also to be considered are Sablan as well as attorney William Fitzgerald.

Tydingco-Gatewood, however, asked the parties in the lawsuit to submit more nominees along with their resumes until today, Tuesday. The judge said she will start interviewing the nominees today.

Johnson is one of two previously unnamed retirees who are suing Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the Fund.

Johnson's counsels, Margery S. Bronster, Bruce Jorgensen, and Ste-

phen C. Woodruff, put Plum on top of their list as a potential trustee *ad litem*.

Johnson's counsels also named as potential trustees industrial economist William H. Stewart and accountant Debbie Milks.

Bronster said that Plum, an expert in collection matter who was appointed trustee by the court in Hawaii many times, is willing to relocate to Saipan.

When asked by the CNMI counsel as to who will shoulder the expenses for relocating Plum, Tydingco-Gatewood immediately replied that it will be the CNMI government.

Assistant attorney general Reena Patel, counsel for Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and the CNMI government, listed former public auditor Sablan on the third list of potential trustee *ad litem*.

Patel also named former Commerce secretary Michael J. Ada on her list, followed by business development

leader Eric Plinske.

Former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham approved a \$400,000 sole-source American Recovery and Reinvestment Act management contract award in October 2010 to Ada within days of stepping down as Cabinet secretary. This was among the reasons why the Office of Public Auditor filed last month criminal charges against Buckingham in the Superior Court.

Tydingco-Gatewood also suggested the nomination of attorneys Janet King and William Fitzgerald and former judge Timothy H. Bellas but later ruled both Bellas and King out after learning that Bellas has a pending case with the Fund, while King is currently working at the Law Revision Commission.

The judge said that Fitzgerald should be asked if he is willing to accept the position.

Meanwhile, Superior Court associ-

ate judge Kenneth L. Govendo joined Tydingco-Gatewood at a status conference in Johnson's lawsuit yesterday morning. Other parties in the Fund's lawsuit against the CNMI government also participated the discussions.

Govendo said the plaintiffs (Johnson and co-plaintiffs) should realize that there's no magic vault and that, although the Fund has obtained a \$300 million judgment, the money is not there.

Govendo said that, as Tydingco-Gatewood had stated during Friday's hearing, this is a messy case. "I'm will-

ing to work together with Judge Tydingco-Gatewood," he added.

Tydingco-Gatewood asked Fund legal counsel Carolyn Kern to prepare a proposed order stating the scope of power of the *ad litem* trustee and the administrator.

Tydingco-Gatewood said the parties are allowed to respond to Kern's proposed order.

Patel's co-counsel assistant attorney general Teresita Sablan said the CNMI government is not opposing to a global settlement of the lawsuits.

» OAG puts on top list ex-Commerce chief Ada

FITIAL

From Page 1

to address our most serious of issues." (*Sidebar: Full text of the governor's statement*)

"It greatly saddens me when those who do not understand my actions accuse me of wrongdoing, which has contributed to the current dispute regarding [the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s] Power Plant 1," he said.

'Insult'

Fitial's statement didn't sit well with some officials and community members.

"I am not surprised at all by Mr. Fitial's lack of an adequate response to the serious allegations put forward in the Articles of Impeachment. Rather than asking for forgiveness, accepting responsibility for his misdeeds and doing the right thing by resigning from office, he has the audacity to continue to do what he has done since day one—and point blame at external factors and other people. This response is an insult to the intelligence of the public. The CNMI deserves so much more," said Glen Hunter, a concerned citizen.

The House minority bloc's House Resolution 17-111 listed 16 articles of impeachment for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

'Politics'

Fitial said the current proceedings "seem to be based on politics and the upcoming election."

He also said all the actions of his administration are open for full examination by multiple independent agencies including the Office of Public Auditor, the U.S. Department of the Interior, and the U.S. Office of Inspector General. He said these agencies are specifically structured to present a professional independent review of all the administration's actions.

"If errors are made, then people must be held accountable. However, I do not see any benefit of supporting or engaging in a politically driven investigation right before an important election that will divide our community and distract us from focusing on trying to solve the critical issues of our Retirement Fund; healthcare system; utility costs; and the

economy," the governor said.

Hunter said as Fitial has stated time and time again, the representatives are moving to impeach "in order to gain political favor with the voters" and "this is not disputed."

"The CNMI is speaking and we are asking our representatives to impeach the governor," he said.

'Circumventing the process'

House minority leader Joe DeLeon Guerrero (R-Saipan), chairman of the Impeachment Committee and lead author of the impeachment resolution, wrote to Fitial yesterday, advising him not to respond to each of the articles of impeachment so as not to circumvent the impeachment process that has already started.

"He can and should defend himself in the Senate. To do so at the House will circumvent and influence the impeachment process. The House is not the place to defend himself, but the Senate," DeLeon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

The governor said it's unfortunate that it's only been the House leadership that has continued discussion on finding possible solutions to the CNMI's problems.

The House leadership is aligned with the governor.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota), when asked for comment, said the governor "has seven years under his belt and declared emergency at the hospital, the Retirement Fund and CUC so he could suspend laws and regulations" but still blames others.

"He now has totalitarian and dictatorial administration just like Castro of Cuba. The Public Utilities Commission, for example, was created by law to review utilities contracts yet the governor suspended that law to approve a \$190-million power agreement without the review of PUC," Manglona said.

Lower utility costs

Fitial said the CNMI needs to resolve four major issues within the next 90 days: restructuring of the NMI Retirement Fund, restructuring the public healthcare system, lowering of utility costs, and expanding the revenue-generating industries.

He went on to explain what his administration has been doing to address

all these.

Hunter said the "governor claims his interests are with the CNMI and he has done no wrong."

"Aside from OPA, DOI, IG, and other agencies, our great founders have also empowered the Legislature to investigate and hold accountable the governor and when needed to impeach. This is not only their right but also their duty when they witness gross neglect of duty. And while the governor may have believed that this Constitutional Right of Impeachment would never be executed [but that will] not make it miraculously disappear," he said.

Hunter added that he is "so proud of the CNMI House of Representatives for moving forward with holding the governor accountable for his actions."

"The governor will be afforded a chance to plead his case and beg for more time before the Senate. In that setting he can be forced to defend all of the 16 articles of impeachment put before him and not avoid addressing his gross neglects of duty, abuses of power, and corrupt acts," he said.

Impeachment panel meetings

The chairman of the Impeachment Committee issued a notice yesterday of the 12 meetings they will be conducting between Sept. 13 and Sept. 28.

The first meeting, which is likened to an organizational meeting wherein rules will be established, is set for Sept. 13, Thursday, 2pm, in the House chamber on Capital Hill.

The succeeding meetings will be held every 9am in the House chamber on the following dates: Sept. 14, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 26, 27, and 28.

DeLeon Guerrero said the meetings are open to the public.

The eight-member committee has four from the House leadership and four from the minority bloc.

This is the first time in CNMI history that a resolution impeaching the governor has been introduced.

At least 14 "yes" votes are needed in the 20-member House to impeach the governor, and at least six "yes" votes in the nine-member Senate to convict him.

So far, only eight House members have gone on the record to say they will vote "yes" to the resolution, seven of them co-authors.

EX-DJ

From Page 1

Saipan Tribune learned that a staff of Power 99 who was on duty at the time managed to record a video of the burning vehicle that was parked on the side of the building occupied by the radio station.

Power 99 general manager Tina Palacios said the car fortunately did not explode although it was filled with gas and that no one was hurt.

Palacios said the incident happened between 3:30am to 4am while DJ Ghelmark Cabrera was on duty.

Palacios said that when Cabrera noticed the burning car he immediately ran outside and drove his vehicle to a safer place. Cabrera's vehicle was parked next to the burning Hyundai Tucson.

A security guard then called 911. A firefighter extinguished the blaze after a few minutes by spraying hose inside the vehicle.

Allegedly, Mettao first threw a brick

to open the glass window of the vehicle. He then threw a Molotov cocktail inside the vehicle, triggering a fire.

Mettao allegedly threw another molotov cocktail into the vehicle but it hit the car's body and bounced, hitting him on the head and causing his shirt to catch fire.

Palacios said he heard that Mettao was running as he was burning.

Palacios said that police officers later arrested Mettao, who was hiding in the house of his uncle near the area.

Another person told *Saipan Tribune* that it was actually Mettao's first throw of the molotov that bounced.

Palacios said that Mettao worked for Power 99 for almost a year and that he was a good DJ. She said they could not get along, however, so she let him go.

In fact, she said, the company filed a criminal trespass complaint against Mettao last Aug. 30 after he went inside the office and threatened an employee.

Palacios said that Mettao had just been arrested on Thursday, after engaging in a fight at a bar in western Garapan.

WATER

From Page 1

that reflects the cost of fuel. It goes up or down to reflect the cost of buying fuel to run the power plants.

Effective Sept. 10, the new water electric charge is \$3.66 per 1,000 gallons, a slight increase over the existing \$3.36 per thousand gallons. The new wastewater electric charge, meantime, is \$1.90 per 1,000 gallons, from \$1.77.

According to CUC, the new rates reimburse the agency for all power costs associated with the production, treatment and transportation of water, and wastewater service. The new charges

for water and wastewater electric charges will be applicable to all customer classes.

CUC earlier disclosed that majority of residential ratepayers use 10,000 gallons of water and wastewater service or less per month.

Saipan Tribune learned that CUC has over 9,000 water customers and nearly 3,000 wastewater customers.

The increase in new LEAC tariff effective last week translates to about \$11.38 monthly increase for average customers. The average residential customer use up to 500 kWh every month.

The new LEAC rate is \$0.31212 per kWh—10.81-percent higher than the August rate of \$0.28168 per kWh.

STATEMENT

From Page 2

establish additional air carrier service that will increase tourism by at least 30 percent over the previous year with the ultimate goal of doubling tourism in 2014, which will provide an overall lift to the economy. Additionally, as tourism increases we need an expansion of the number of available quality hotel rooms, and we are in direct discussions with investors for the renovation and expansion of at least three hotel complexes and expansion of retailing in 2013. I find these developments to be the most beneficial, as it will mean new construction, investment, and long-term employment for the people.

"I want to beg your patience and ask you to please forgive the shortcomings of those who do not understand my motivations or my actions. I have always acted in what I feel is the best interest

of the people and consistent within the authority of the Office of the Governor. All of the actions of the administration are open for full examination by multiple independent agencies including the Office of Public Auditor, the United States Department of Interior, and the United States Office of Inspector General. These agencies are specifically structured to present a professional independent review of all our actions. If errors are made, then people must be held accountable. However, I do not see any benefit of supporting or engaging in a politically driven investigation right before an important election that will divide our community and distract us from focusing on trying to solve the critical issues of our Retirement Fund; healthcare system; utility costs; and the economy. These are the pressing issues that the administration and the Legislature need to focus on so as to resolve the longstanding problems that face our people." (*Office of the Governor*)

Senate panel yet to receive investigation reports from DPS, CPA

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
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REPORTER

Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Government Investigations chair Sen. Frank Cruz (R-Tinian) said yesterday his panel has yet to receive from the Department of Public Safety and Commonwealth Ports Authority a written report about any internal investigation conducted to determine alleged abuse and misuse of armed police and ports police officers, as well as government vehicles, to transport and escort former attorney general Edward T. Buckingham to the airport on Aug. 4.

The escort was purportedly intended to shield Buckingham from being served a penal summons for criminal charges filed against him.

Cruz said it has been a month since the Senate EAGI Committee sent an Aug. 10 letter to both DPS acting commissioner Aniceto Ogomoro and CPA executive director Edward Deleon Guerrero.

That letter asks DPS and CPA to conduct a full internal investigation into alleged abuse of power, misuse of government resources, and obstruction of justice.

Cruz said that while Deleon Guerrero "told" the media that CPA "concluded" that ports police did not violate any law or abused power when they escorted Buckingham and his wife to the airport, his panel has not received such report of the investigation.

The senator, however, said on Aug. 14, Deleon Guerrero sent him a letter officially acknowledging receipt of his Aug. 10 letter.

Deleon Guerrero's one-page letter "assured that CPA is conducting an independent inquiry into what occurred at the Saipan International Airport on the morning of Aug. 4, 2012."

"As CPA understands and respects the subpoena power of the Legislature, please feel free to submit any subpoena should you wish to obtain information resulting from CPA's inquiry," Deleon Guerrero told Cruz in his letter.

Deleon Guerrero earlier told *Saipan Tribune*, "I want to say, we respect the subpoena power of the Legislature. But in my review of what happened that night, there's nothing that indicated our ports police have done anything wrong. They did not do anything to violate the law."

The CPA executive director said the ports police only assisted DPS personnel when they escorted the Bucking-

hams at the airport. "I don't believe that any of my officers tried to stop the process [of serving the penal summons]," he added.

Cruz said yesterday that CPA may only just be waiting for the investigation report to be subpoenaed. But he said his committee wasn't expecting that CPA would wait to be subpoenaed before submitting the results of its internal investigation.

The Senate panel is also awaiting a written report from DPS.

Acting DPS commissioner Aniceto Ogomoro acknowledged in writing Cruz's Aug. 10 letter regarding DPS' actions during the early morning hours of Aug. 4.

"I understand the concern that you and the people of the Commonwealth have about the alleged conduct of our department and several of our officers. I wish to inform you that I share these concerns. Therefore, I have instructed my staff to carry out an internal investigation to discover exactly how the events of that morning came about, and to determine if any criminal acts were committed, or if any departmental rules and regulations were violated," Ogomoro said in an Aug. 16 letter, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune*.

Ogomoro's brother, DPS deputy commissioner Ambrosio Ogomoro, was among the police officers that escorted the Buckingham.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's security aide, Police Capt. Jermaine Nekaifes, and CPA Ports Police chief Jordan Kosam were also among those involved based on video footage taken by KSPN 2.

Cruz said he understands that DPS may be swamped with other responsibilities and investigations, but hopes that the internal investigation into the airport incident would be wrapped up soon.

"Based on the video footage, the police officers involved are not rookies. Police and ports police are sworn to uphold the law. If they knew there was a penal summons to be served to the AG, they should help serve that penal summons to the AG rather than help him avoid it. The people deserve an explanation for what these police and ports police did," Cruz told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senators and community members questioned the use of on-duty police officers and government marked and unmarked vehicles to transport and escort the Buckingham until they were about to board the plane.

Cruz said the Senate EAGI will have no choice but go to the next step if CPA and DPS do not comply with their request.

"We'd be asking the Office of the Public Auditor and the Office of the Attorney General to investigate. The last option would be to also ask the FBI to investigate it. But it's going to be insulting for the CNMI to ask federal agencies to investigate something that the local agencies failed to investigate. This is not a murder case that cannot be investigated and concluded by our own agencies. But I won't have a choice but to do that if needed," the senator added.

He reiterated that the attor-

ney general, police officers, and ports police officers are "not above the law."

On Aug. 3, on Buckingham's supposed last "work day," the Office of the Public Auditor filed criminal charges against him in connection with his alleged hosting of a delegate candidate's "meet and greet" party in 2010 and signing of an almost \$400,000 sole-source ARRA management contract award to Mike Ada within days of resigning as Commerce secretary.

OPA, however, could not locate Buckingham on Aug. 3. When they learned that Buckingham was leaving in the early morning hours of Aug. 4 rather than the announced Aug. 5 departure, they tried to

serve him at the airport but did not succeed.

OPA sought the help of the FBI, which successfully served Buckingham the penal summons to appear in court on Aug. 6, before his plane bound for Narita took off.

Buckingham didn't show up in court on Aug. 6, prompting Superior Court associate judge David Wiseman to impose a \$50,000 cash bail for Buckingham after he determined that the AG flagrantly disregarded the court's penal summons.

OPA filed an amended information adding two more charges against Buckingham as a result of the airport incident: interference with service of process and misconduct in

public office.

Buckingham's last "work day" was on Aug. 3, before taking a 30-day annual leave before fully resigning for family matters. He later rescinded his resignation to answer the charges against him but he later resigned again, citing family and medical reasons.

On his last day of work, Buckingham also signed off on a 25-year, \$190.8-million power purchase agreement with Saipan Development LLC.

The airport incident and the power purchase deal are among the issues included in a resolution to impeach the governor for felony, corruption, and neglect of duty.

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Dynasty buyer pays casino commission \$175K but 'politics' holds up process

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's buyer, Taiwan-based Howarm Golden Islands Holdings Ltd., has already paid application fees totaling \$175,000 to the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission but "politics" is allegedly holding up the confirmation of a third commissioner to act on the result of the ongoing review of the investor's application.

Tinian Dynasty is the only operating casino in the CNMI, and its proposed purchase by Howarm could help boost not only Tinian's casino industry but also the CNMI economy as a whole, officials said yesterday.

Donald Hofschneider, acting executive director of the Casino Commission, confirmed yesterday

that Howarm submitted its application and applicable fees on Aug. 31.

These include the application for a casino license with a fee of \$25,000, and the licensing cost deposit, previously called investigation fee, of \$150,000.

"Yes, Howarm Golden Islands Holdings Ltd. already paid the applicable fees. The commission welcomes investors to further develop the casino industry on Tinian to help not only Tinian's economy but the CNMI economy as a whole," Hofschneider told *Saipan Tribune*.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) said Howarm's payment of the application fees marks the seriousness of the investor to take over Dynasty's ownership and management, and hopes that the

application will move smoothly.

"This is welcome news to the CNMI, that an investor has committed to partnering with us to further develop the industry. I will continue to seek the support of the administration and the rest of the CNMI on this major undertaking because of its impact on the CNMI," the chairman of the Tinian Legislative Delegation said.

But the Casino Commission currently lacks a three-member quorum to act on any of the recommendation of the commission's acting executive director related to the review of Howarm's application.

The Casino Commission only has two member: chairman Ike Quichocho and Bernie Palacios.

The Tinian Municipal Council, chaired by Estevan Cabrera, postponed yesterday the confir-

mation hearing on the mayor's appointment of a third casino commissioner—Don Farrell, the mayor's chief of staff and a CNMI historian—because of opposition from Ray Cing and concerns from within the council such as proper announcement of the meeting.

The confirmation hearing has been rescheduled for Thursday at 10am.

Quichocho, in a letter to the Municipal Council after hearing of the postponement, said, "I would like to emphasize the need for Mr. Farrell's appointment to be acted on as quickly as possible without further delay."

"As you know, we are currently reviewing a casino license application, and the TC-GCC should have a quorum before the commission can act

on the recommendation of the acting executive director upon completion of the application investigation process. Again, it is urgent that you act on the appointment of Mr. Farrell quickly," Quichocho told Cabrera.

Ray Cing, director of the Department of Public Lands on Tinian and candidate for Tinian Municipal Council, confirmed yesterday that he is protesting Tinian Mayor Ray Dela Cruz's appointment of Farrell as casino commissioner over what he described as politics and conflict of interest.

"If the Municipal Council and the mayor see this casino application as an urgent matter, then the mayor can appoint another one so as not to hold up the process. I, as a member of the public, can raise my concerns. There is no question that Mr. Farrell has the credentials to serve on the commission, he is qualified, and I don't have personal issues with him. My concern is that why can't the mayor appoint somebody who is not a relative or his staff?" Cing said in a phone interview.

He mentioned six other individuals whom he thinks can also be appointed, including former representative and current candidate Edwin Aldan, Lydia Barcinas, Matthew Masga, Arsene Borja, Julian Hofschneider, or Anthony Aguon.

Cing said he is supporting Aldan and his running mate, Jack Borja, under the governor's Republican Party. They are not aligned with the mayor.

He said the Municipal Council can still confirm Farrell but the mayor should also appoint another one that is not related to the mayor, for the council's confirmation.

Another Tinian official said the current budget is only for three members of the Casino Commission.

Tinian Municipal Council vice chair Joseph Cruz, for his part, wants to make sure the confirmation hearing is properly announced.

Patrick A. Manglona, secretary of the Tinian Municipal Council, separately said yesterday that "on Tinian, everybody is related to everyone" but he said his main concern is "not because Farrell is the mayor's brother-in-law but because the required documents were not submitted as of yesterday."

Manglona said he was referring to drug test results and statement of financial interest, among other things.

"While I understand the urgency, the process and requirements cannot be ignored. When I was still chairman of the Council, I already asked the mayor to make appointments but he did not, and that's dereliction of duty, so now they are trying to rush the process. We should follow the process," he said.

Manglona also accused Quichocho and vice chair Joseph Cruz of being the mayor's men.

"Can these two confirm a mayor's nomination without a third member, me? All I'm asking is follow the process," said Manglona.

Sen. Hofschneider said last night he hopes the issues surrounding the confirmation of a third Casino Commission member will be resolved among the parties involved, now that an application is under review.

Tinian Dynasty owner Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments Ltd., owner of Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino, has been negotiating with Howarm for quite some time now on the purchase of the only operating casino in the CNMI.

Howarm is a Taiwan-based company engaged in construction, leasing and distribution of residential and commercial buildings.

Tinian Mayor Ramon Dela Cruz earlier said Tinian "welcomes new investors to Tinian that have bigger capital, will bring cash infusion, and attract high rollers. Howarm is a major company in Taiwan and they have a good reputation."



Saipan SDA School welcomes a new principal

CLARISSA V. DAVID

Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School principal Sharon Nguyen hands a plaque of appreciation to Dr. Kenneth Pierson, SDA Clinic director, during the open house event commemorating the clinic's 40th anniversary last Sept. 7.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Students at the Saipan Seventh-day Adventist School recently welcomed not only a new school year but also a new school principal.

Sharon Nguyen, who grew up in Pennsylvania, arrived on Saipan last July 12 to take over the position left vacant by Michael Berglund. A former principal of Katy Adventist Christian School in Texas, Nguyen will oversee some 80-plus students and some 11 faculty and staff on Saipan.

The Saipan SDA School, which is composed of a child development center and elementary school components, is one of the schools owned and operated by the SDA Church through the Guam Micronesia Mission.

Nguyen, who came to Saipan with her husband, now

SDA school teacher and pastor Thai Nguyen, disclosed Friday that she was initially hired as a first grade teacher.

"The next day after we arrived on island, GMM, which is in charge of and oversees the school, called me and asked me if I'd be willing to take over the principal position. It has been such an honor and a blessing," Nguyen said at the open house of the SDA Clinic in celebration of its 40th anniversary.

Nguyen said that although she is "not at all hesitant" to give up the administrative position and go back to classroom teaching, she has "never been happier" than when she decided to serve as principal for the Saipan SDA School.

"I love my job. It's very busy, there's always things happening, there's problems to take care of and issues that come up but I've never been

as less stressed as I am here as principal," she said.

While Nguyen is determined to continue some of the programs that Berglund initiated during his tenure, she is also working on introducing new activities such as an academic or science fair, which is already on its initial planning stage.

She is also hopeful that the Saipan SDA School will increase its enrollment figures by at least 15 due to the high student-teacher ratio in public elementary schools on island. At present, a total of 20 students are enrolled in the child development center located within the church grounds along Quartermaster Road, and 61 more in the elementary school in San Antonio.

"Our enrollment increases typically around October and November, so we should have no problem reaching our goal

there," added Nguyen.

One of her long-term goals for the Saipan SDA School is to merge the child development center and elementary levels in one campus, and hopefully be able to offer educational program from preschool to grade 12. At this time, the school has up to 8th grade.

With the islands' warm and friendly people, enthralling waters and amazing marine life, Nguyen said she is already "incredibly in love" even after only two months of stay.

"I grew up in the mountains and so for me, this is a brand new experience," she said as she shared how she enjoys eating fresh fruits picked from their backyard or buying homegrown vegetables and other local products at the Tuesday Market.

"I don't know how else to explain it, but it's home," added Nguyen.

Fund legal counsel Kern also quits

Attorney Carolyn Kern has resigned as legal counsel for the financially troubled NMI Retirement Fund.

Kern disclosed her resignation during yesterday's status conference that was jointly conducted in federal court by U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood and Superior Court associate judge Kenneth L. Govendo.

"I'm leaving Saipan," Kern told Judge Tydingco-Gatewood, who expressed surprised.

In an interview after the conference, Kern said her last day at the Fund is Sept. 21.

Kern joined the Fund as one of its legal counsels in January 2010.

She said she is returning to New Zealand where she served for four years as tax attorney be-

fore coming to Saipan.

Kern said she likes Saipan and is not opposed to the idea of returning to the island in the future.

Kern said the Fund is in tragic situation and that makes her very sad.

The lawyer said she tried to do her piece to deal with the Fund's situation. "I feel hope for positive outcome for all the Fund members," she said.

Aside from Kern, the Fund's other legal counsel is Christopher Timmons. Attorney Brad-dock Huesman is counsel for the Fund board of trustees.

The Fund currently has no board quorum and no administrator. Its deputy administrator and acting administrator Esther Ada also resigned effective this Friday, Sept. 14. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

40TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

TanHoldings launches cash and prize giveaway promo

TanHoldings launched yesterday a cash and prize giveaway in conjunction with its 40th anniversary to be celebrated throughout the remainder of

the year.

TanHoldings will be giving away \$10,000 in cash and \$4,000 in prizes. Every Saturday night at the Kanoa Resort lobby during their Weekend Food Fair event from now till Dec. 15, 2012, there will be a raffle drawing at 9:30pm wherein one lucky winner will receive \$100 cash and another nine winners will receive prize gift certificates.

On Sunday, Dec. 16, there will be a final grand drawing with a very special Grand Prize of \$4,000, a second place prize of \$2,000, a third place prize of \$1,000 and more cash prizes up to 10th place. Additionally, there will be 30 more prizes to be given away making it a total of 40 prizes to be won.

To be a lucky winner, you must dine at the newly renovated restaurants and bars in the Kanoa Resort. For every \$5 spent at the Isla Café, Nami Bar, Barefoot Beach Bar, and the Weekend Food Fair you will receive a raffle ticket. During the weekend draws, the tickets are placed in a tumbler and 10 lucky winners will be chosen for the weekly prizes (\$100 cash and 9 prize gift certificates). Once a ticket has won, it is removed from the weekly drawings but will then be included again for the Grand Drawing on Dec. 16 for the final chance to win more cash, other great prizes or the Grand Prize of \$4,000. Participants do

not need to be present to win.

Jerry Tan, TanHoldings president said, "This is a great opportunity to further give back to our community and to our customers. These prizes, especially the grand cash prize of \$4,000, will be a great Christmas gift for some lucky winners. This would be the final event of our 40th anniversary celebrations and once again on behalf of my family and our employees, I would like to thank the community for your support."

"This event will give everyone a chance to come down to the Kanoa Resort and see how we've transformed. This is Saipan's newest resort renovation and we want to showcase our property to the community and tourists alike. It also signifies the commitment of TanHoldings' presence in the CNMI. The renovations have been the talk of the town since we relaunched in July and we welcome everyone to come down and see the resort for yourself. Plus, imagine turning a \$5 ticket into \$4,000! The more you dine, the more chances you'll have of winning!" said Kanoa Resort resident manager Mark Ratliff.

Weekly drawings will be held at the Kanoa Resort lobby every Saturday at 9:30pm. Participants do not need to be present to win. Weekly winners will be posted in the lobby of the Kanoa Resort and in the *Saipan Tribune*. (PR)

Rotary to distribute dictionaries anew

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Another school year has begun and the Rotary Club of Saipan is getting ready once again to distribute dictionaries to third grade public school students in the CNMI.

Rotarian Reina Camacho said at their recent meeting at the Hyatt Regency that they are in the process of finalizing the total number of third graders on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota, who will benefit from the project.

Once the numbers are confirmed, Rotary's Vocational Service committee will seek help from other Rotarians in labeling and handing out the dictionaries, Camacho added.

Now on its third year, the dictionary project promotes education and literacy among third graders who are at the age when they can better absorb information from reference materials, according to the Rotary.

About 1,000 dictionaries were distributed to third graders during school year 2011-2012. Delta Air Lines, an annual sponsor of the Rotary Club of Saipan's Parade of Books event, expressed its support for the project by paying for the cost of over 1,000 dictionaries, using funds from its yearly golf tournament.

Last school year, some 800 students on the three islands received the dictionaries, which cost over \$1,500. The project was made possible with the assistance of the Rotary Club of Northern Guam, SoCal Dictionary Project of the Rotary Club of Pacific Basin out of San Diego, and Delta Air Lines.

Besides the dictionary project, the Rotary Club of Saipan also hosts annually for elementary students the Parade of Books event.

IT&E doubles and triples DSL speeds

IT&E, the Marianas communications leader, announced yesterday a new era of speed, coverage, and connectivity with a newly released family of DSL Broadband products.

Since the introduction of broadband to the Marianas, IT&E customers have become accustomed to product names DSL Lite, Nitro, Supercharge, and Turbocharge. The familiar names have now been replaced with Basic, Advantage, Premium, and Extreme and IT&E customers will receive up to triple their current speed at the same price to reflect a world where faster communication has become a necessity.

Customers who currently enjoy download speeds of up to 768kbps on DSL Nitro will have twice the bandwidth with

speeds up to 1.5Mbps on DSL Basic. Customers who currently enjoy download speeds of up to 1.0Mbps on DSL Supercharge will receive speeds up to 2.5Mbps on DSL Advantage. Customers who currently enjoy download speeds of up to 1.5Mbps on DSL Turbocharge will receive speeds up to 4.0 Mbps on DSL Extreme.

In addition to the DSL Basic, DSL Advantage, and DSL Premium, IT&E is introducing an option for customers to receive download speeds of up to 3.0Mbps with DSL Premium.

"We're proud to be the first choice for high speed broadband access in the Marianas, and these improvements allow us to stay ahead of the demand of our customers," said IT&E chief operating officer Joe Camacho. "This project provides our subscriber base with enhanced broadband access that will exceed their demand for a faster and more complete communications experience."

For more information about IT&E's coverage and services, contact IT&E Customer Care at 682-4ITE (4483) at IT&E Customer Service on Middle Road. (PR)



AT GOP CAMPAIGN HEADQUARTERS

Republican Party of the CNMI Association member Marian Tudela holds a poster of the party's delegate candidate, Dr. Ignacia Demapan, during a meeting where Gov. Benigno R. Fitial addressed the membership at the local GOP headquarters in Gualo Rai on Friday afternoon.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

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BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy birthday to our sister Emy Made, whose special day is today, Sept. 11, 2012. Pwipwii, we wish you a lot more blessings and happiness today and many more beautiful birthdays to come. We love you always! Shoutout coming from your families.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



CONDOLENCES

Rep. Ray Palacios (Cov-Saipan), fourth from left reads House Commemorative Resolution 17-29 that conveys condolences to the family of the late Joaquin Santos Aguon, fondly known as "Akin Mantika," on his untimely passing, as other lawmakers look on during last week's session.

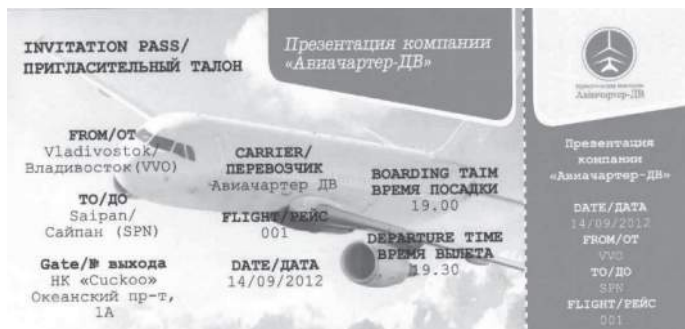
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

MVA, Aviacharter DV promote Russian charters

In preparation for charter flights from Russia to the Northern Mariana Islands in October 2012, the Marianas Visitors Authority will be joining flight operator Aviacharter DV in hosting a launch event for travel agents and media reps in Vladivostok on Friday, Sept. 14.

The event, expected to draw 200-plus attendees from the travel industry and east Russia media representatives, aims to generate interest in the destination and spur sales of the bi-weekly flights. Organizers say the first several charters are actively selling, underscoring the appeal of this beach resort destination with Russian travelers.

"Our travel partner Aviacharter DV is rolling out the red carpet for industry players



A mock boarding pass that will entitle attendees to a raffle ticket at Aviacharter DV's launch party on Sept. 10, 2012, promoting the commencement of charter flights from Vladivostok, Russia to the Northern Mariana Islands beginning in October 2012.

at this week's launch party," said MVA marketing manager Bruce Bateman. "For MVA's part, we are supporting the charters by investing in advertising the Northern Marianas. These flights are now scheduled to run through March 2013. However,

if demand is strong, they may continue beyond that."

Launch receptions are common to celebrate and promote the commencement of new flights. The launch party for the Aviacharter DV will include mock boarding passes

to Saipan with tear-off raffle tickets, a diver that will pull winning raffle tickets from the bottom of a swimming pool, tropical-themed refreshments, and more.

The packages for the charter flights will be family oriented. Families with two or more children under the age of 12 will be given one free ticket for one child. Packages that include the neighboring islands of Tinian and Rota will be also offered to travelers.

Aviacharter DV will fly 737-700 aircraft with 137-passenger seating. As part of the flight route, the aircraft will also conduct regular flights between Yakutsk-Vladivostok. In Russia, regular flights face very high penalties if delayed or cancelled. (MVA)

CAMPUS RAINWORKS DESIGN CHALLENGE

EPA launches stormwater management contest

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency has opened registration for student teams from colleges and universities across the country to participate in its new design competition, the Campus RainWorks Challenge, through which teams will compete to

architects, planners, and engineers in green infrastructure principles and design.

Stormwater is a major cause of harmful water pollution in the U.S., impacting tens of thousands of miles of rivers, streams, and coastal shorelines, as well as hundreds of thousands of acres

must be submitted by Dec. 14, 2012, for consideration. Winning entries will be selected by EPA and announced in April 2013. Winning teams will earn a cash prize of \$1,500 - \$2,500, as well as \$8,000 - \$11,000 in funds for their faculty advisor to conduct research on green infra-

structure. of green infrastructure as a solution to help manage stormwater runoff. Green infrastructure uses vegetation, soils, and natural processes to manage stormwater runoff at its source and provide other community benefits. Green infrastructure is increasingly being used to sup-

ON THE NET

Campus RainWorks Challenge: http://water.epa.gov/infrastructure/greeninfrastructure/crw_challenge.cfm

develop innovative approaches to stormwater management.

This competition, which is being eyed to become an annual event, will help raise awareness of green design and planning approaches at colleges and universities, and train the next generation of landscape

of lakes, reservoirs, and ponds.

Student teams, working with a faculty advisor, will submit design plans for a proposed green infrastructure project for their campus. Registration for the Campus RainWorks Challenge is open from Sept. 4 through Oct. 5, and entries

structure.

In 2013, EPA plans to expand Campus RainWorks by inviting students to design and complete a demonstration project assessing innovative green infrastructure approaches on their campus.

EPA is encouraging the use

plement or substitute for single-purpose "gray" infrastructure investments such as pipes, and ponds. The Campus RainWorks Challenge will help encourage the use of green infrastructure projects on college and university campuses to manage stormwater discharges. (USEPA)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Sept. 11, 2000

Govt told to pay Hillblom claimant's guardian

The U.S. District Court on Friday ordered the CNMI government to pay over \$13,000 to a lawyer, who is a guardian to one of the Hillblom claimants, representing attorney fees and costs in a case that the former lost last June. James E. Hollman, in his capacity as guardian for Vo Minh Tan, sued the government over a recent law that had allowed the CNMI to keep the interests earned from the funds belonging to the estate of the late business tycoon Larry Hillblom entrusted to the Superior Court. The lawsuit was filed in April by lawyer Bruce L. Jorgensen on behalf of his client after Superior Court Judge Pro-Tem Alex Castro ordered Mr. Hollman to defend claim on the interests earned from the Hillblom account.

EDP programmers cut costs, develop own programs

The Division of Electronic Data Processing (EDP) has begun a series of projects aimed at reducing the government's dependence on outside contractors for computer programming, a move that has already saved tens of thousands of dollars on the first project alone. The Board of Elections has become the first government entity to secure a new computer program written exclusively by EDP programmers who have recently trained on several projects with hired private consultants. "BOE Director Gregorio Sablan called me up earlier this year and said he couldn't afford to pay the estimates he had received for the program he wanted, so I issued the challenge to my programmers," said EDP acting Director Danny Quitugua. "They had never created modules before, but they still managed to create the entire program from scratch within a month."

Sept. 11, 2001

PSS to standardize bilingual program

The Public School System made a pitch on the importance of bilingual courses, which are currently offered at all public schools in the Commonwealth, during a two-day workshop at the Aqua Resort Club last weekend. Commonwealth educators gathered Friday and Saturday at the Rey Lounge to look into the status of bilingual courses offered to students in various grade levels. PSS Bilingual Education Coordinator Jesus Elameto said the Bilingual Education Seminar, Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment workshop was conducted to develop a standard that should be complied with by all bilingual teachers on the islands.

PSS sued for breach of contract

The CNMI Public School System was slapped with over \$800,000 in damage suit for alleged breach of contract involving the Tinian High School construction project. The lawsuit was filed by Century Insurance Company Limited against the PSS, which allegedly refused to pay the insurance company that had assumed the completion of the school contract by virtue of a performance and payment bond. The insurance firm is asking the PSS to pay \$867,867.16 in damages. The case also impleaded Guerrero Brothers, Inc., a contractor who was awarded with the project contract worth more than \$3.8 million.

Sept. 11, 2002

Governor signs \$217M budget

At exactly 3:15pm yesterday, Gov. Juan N. Babauta signed into law the \$217-million budget appropriations for Fiscal Year 2003, effectively breaking the jinx that has been hounding the budget since 1998. As expected, though, the enacted measure contained 12 line-item vetoes, with three major vetoes concerning the supposedly mandatory 25 percent quarterly allotments, the provision on the salary caps, and the Beautification Tax that was supposed to fund the Solid Waste Management Program of the government. The rest of the line-item vetoes were largely technical in nature. Babauta was also quick to add that signing House Bill 13-170 into law does not mean that he and Lt. Gov. Diego T. Benavente are in complete agreement with what is contained in the measure.

'Congress wants enforcement'

Rather than amending the Covenant to address labor and immigration issues, the U.S. Congress wants more federal enforcement to ensure that the Commonwealth strictly complies with federal regulations. At the same time, impressed with the success of the Excellence 2000 program initiated between the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, U.S. President George W. Bush wants more strategic alliances with the business sector.

SEPTEMBER 11, 2001

Four airliners hijacked

All times are ET

Flight 175

8:14 a.m.
United Airlines Boeing 767 leaves Boston for Los Angeles; 60 aboard

Flight 11

7:59 a.m.
American Airlines Boeing 767 leaves Boston for Los Angeles; 87 aboard

Flight 93

8:42 a.m.
United Airlines Boeing 757 leaves Newark, N.J., for San Francisco; 40 aboard

Flight 77

8:20 a.m.
American Airlines Boeing 757 leaves Washington's Dulles Airport for Los Angeles; 59 aboard

New York attacked

8:46 a.m.
American Airlines Flight 11 crashes into World Trade Center North Tower

Second plane hits

9:03 a.m.
United Flight 175 hits World Trade Center South Tower

9:21 a.m.
All New York area bridges, tunnels closed

9:30 a.m.
Visiting an elementary school in Sarasota, Fla., President George W. Bush announces United States under "apparent terrorist attack"

9:42 a.m.
FAA stops all takeoffs, landings at U.S. airports; some international flights diverted to Canada

Washington targeted

9:37 a.m.
Flight 77 crashes into Pentagon, across Potomac River from Washington, D.C.

9:45 a.m.
U.S. Capitol, White House evacuated

9:55 a.m.
Bush leaves Florida on Air Force One for Barksdale Air Force Base, La., escorted by six fighter jets

9:57 a.m.
Flight 93 passengers struggle with hijackers as plane flies over western Pennsylvania

Shocked nation reacts

9:59 a.m.
South tower collapses

10 a.m.
U.S. financial markets close, begin longest shutdown since World War I

10:03 a.m.
United Flight 93 crashes near Shanksville in rural Somerset County, Pa.

10:10 a.m.
Side of Pentagon collapses

10:28 a.m.
North tower collapses

11:02 a.m.
New York City Mayor Rudolph Giuliani orders evacuation of area south of Canal Street

1:04 p.m.
At Barksdale AFB, Bush announces U.S. military on high alert worldwide

1:44 p.m.
Pentagon says five frigates and guided missile destroyers, two aircraft carriers leaving Norfolk, Va., to protect New York and Washington

1:48 p.m.
Bush leaves Barksdale for undisclosed location (Offutt Air Force Base, Neb.)

Bush confers by phone with National Security Council; Air Force jets begin 24-hour flights over major cities

4 p.m.
U.S. officials say Saudi militant Osama bin Laden involved in attacks

4:30 p.m.
Bush leaves Offutt for Andrews AFB, near Washington, with jet escort

5:20 p.m.
Evacuated 47-story building in World Trade Center complex collapses

5:30 p.m.
Officials say Flight 93 hijackers' target was White House, U.S. Capitol or presidential retreat at Camp David in Maryland

8:30 p.m.
Bush addresses nation, says U.S. will make no distinction between the terrorists and those who help or harbor them

6:54 p.m.
Bush arrives at White House on Marine One helicopter

Source: AP, World Trade Center, U.S. Defense Department, Washington Post, CNN, National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States © 2011 MCT

11 YEARS LATER

Status of the World Trade Center's site

NEW YORK (AP)—Eleven years after terrorists attacked the World Trade Center, the new multibillion-dollar World Trade Center once again dominates the lower Manhattan skyline. Hundreds of construction workers are at the 16-acre (6.5-hectare) site every day, and tourists snap thousands of photos of the two towers that are nearing completion.

Here is a look at the status of the trade center's major components, according to its developers:

■ Most of the 8-acre (3.2-hectare) memorial quadrangle at the World Trade Center opened last year on the 10th anniversary of the attacks. Since then, some 4.5 million people have visited the memorial, with its twin reflecting pools where the towers stood. But a museum being built in a cavern beneath the plaza is still incomplete. Work all but stopped last fall because of a funding dispute between the memorial foundation and the Port Authority of New York and New Jersey. Joseph Daniels, president of the National Sept. 11 Memorial and Museum, said that once construction resumes it will take more than a year to finish the job, meaning the museum might not open until 2014.

■ One World Trade Center, formerly known as the Freedom Tower, will open in 2014 on the northwest corner of the trade center site with 3 million square feet (280,000 square meters) of office space. Tenants so far include magazine publisher Conde Nast and the federal government's General Services Administration. The spire atop the 104-story building will reach the symbolic height of 1,776 feet (541.3 meters). There will be observation decks on the 100th, 101st and 102nd floors. The building without the spire has reached its full height of 1,368 feet (417 meters). It is expected to cost \$3.9 billion by the time it is finished.

■ The first office building to open will be the 72-story 4 World Trade Center at the southeast corner of the site. It has reached its full height of 977 feet (298 meters) and is scheduled to open in October 2013. Tenants will include the Port Authority, the bi-state agency that owns the trade center site and lost its headquarters when the twin towers were attacked.

■ Just north of 4 World Trade Center is 3 World Trade Center, which is now an eight-story stub but will reach 80 stories and 1,150 feet (350.5 meters) when it's complete. Developer Larry Silverstein is required to lease at least 400,000 square feet (37,160 square meters) of space before finishing the building. Silverstein's team is projecting a completion date of 2015 or 2016.

■ At the northeast corner of the site, 2 World Trade Center is up only to street level. The building is planned as an 88-story skyscraper but will not be built until the commercial real estate market picks up enough to fill it.

■ The new transportation hub at the trade center will connect 13 subway lines and PATH trains to New Jersey when it opens in 2015. It will replace the temporary PATH station that was built after the Sept. 11 attacks. Designed by Spanish architect Santiago Calatrava, the station will serve 250,000 travelers a day. There will be two levels of retail space. None of the tenants has been announced yet. The cost of the transportation hub, originally pegged at \$2.2 billion, is now expected to exceed \$3.5 billion.

■ A performing arts center planned for the site has been in limbo for years. A board of directors was named this year and was given the task of raising funds to build the center, which is to include a 1,000-seat theater.

■ An underground vehicle security center and bus parking facility just south of the main trade center site will open in 2013.

Opinion

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AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

The parties are over, on with the campaign

The following editorial appeared in the Chicago Tribune on Friday, Sept. 7:

This presidential election is all about the “undecideds.” Count Mother Nature among them.

Ten days after a passing hurricane delayed the first day of events at the Republican National Convention in Tampa, Fla., the threat of heavy thunderstorms forced Democrats to move their grand outdoor finale—President Barack Obama’s acceptance speech—to a much smaller indoor venue.

Some 70,000 supporters planned to attend “the most open, accessible and inclusive convention in history” at Bank of America football stadium in Charlotte, N.C. But a week of daily downpours and a forecast for more, with lightning, led organizers to confine events to Time Warner Cable Arena, which holds roughly 20,000.

That left tens of thousands of guests—including many who’d earned their way in by committing to nine hours as campaign volunteers—without a ticket. Oops.

A cynical Republican might be tempted to observe that the Democrats had overpromised again. But there were no Republicans in sight this week, save the few brave picketers pacing the sidewalk between Charlotte’s convention center and the arena. It was all happy, costumed Democrats within the uptown security perimeter. A local columnist complained that the “Democracy District” is so insular that residents of Charlotte aren’t allowed in.

The conventioners were a proudly diverse lot. You could tell by their enthusiasm for the bins of official DNC campaign buttons sold inside the convention center. Bus drivers for Obama. Firefighters for Obama. Retirees for Obama. Postal workers, janitors and lab techs for Obama. Artists, architects, educators, actors, cat lovers, kids, moms, dads. Nuns for Obama!

At \$2.50 apiece, the buttons might just close that funding gap, especially since it was hard to leave with just one. Or two.

(Notably not represented: Investment bankers, doctors, hedge fund managers or golfers. Hey, this party was for people who have made up their minds. That was true in Tampa, too.)

Thursday’s change of venue left disappointed Obama supporters scrambling for a Plan B—the couch and cable TV in their hotel rooms or hastily arranged “watch parties” in local bars. It wasn’t what they had in mind.

But diehard Democrats are a forgiving lot. Witness their willingness to cut their candidate so much slack for the continued dismal economy. The national debt just hit \$16 trillion and unemployment is stuck above 8 percent, but things are getting better and they could have been much worse. Or so they were told, over and over, this week.

There was nothing to do but have a beer—hey, there was none of that in the arena—and applaud everything the president has done for Latinos, for women, for seniors, for gays ... for bus drivers, bartenders, educators, for anyone who already plans to vote Obama on Nov. 6.

The conventions are over. Now it’s all about the few people who haven’t made up their minds. On with the campaign.

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Judge 0212 KANSAS CITY STAR / judge@kstar.com 9/2



9.11.2012

Eleven years later, after the likes of Mohammed Atta commandeered four Boeing flights to the twin towers of NYC—then the symbols of the financial world headed by the United States reigning over the world’s industrialized nations, the Pentagon as the center of military might of the dominant global empire, and a wheat field in Pennsylvania where democratic hands foiled a projected destination to the halls of Congress—the mythology of 911 is firmly in place with a commission report and various forms of conspiracy theories (revealing the not-too-shadowy cabal at Cheney’s White House puppeteers) documented about it.

The storyline for the moment is that in the end, Obama el Hussein bested Osama bin Laden!

We have had occasions to view the site in lower Manhattan, and we note that the emotional impact of the event on American consciousness, and the re-examination on the War on Terrorism it spawned in countries led by free market leaders, has been overtaken by the real issue that really matters to many people’s pocketbooks: the state of the global economy.

The global financial crisis that saw the displacement of Wall Street and Manhattan as the preferred watering hole of world financiers long before the onset of New York’s decline and the ascendancy of such places as Wangfujing in Beijing, Nanjing Da Jie in Shanghai, the Ginza in Tokyo, Connaught in Hong Kong, and Marina in Singapore, hit serious review of financial titans in Vladivostok this week. Though billed only as a forum, representative of the APEC nations gathered to plot once more a defense of currency exchanges even as Wall Street withers and Main Street asserts its democratic occupancy of the world’s economic structures.

The Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation is a rearguard action, initiated by Japan in the late ’80s as it found itself in the role of a world banker after Reagan informally devalued the U.S. currency, and the yen found itself with too much value too hot to handle by its domestic market, so it had to buy something elsewhere, including most of the islands of the Pacific! Add the agricultural and mineral abundance of Australia that went searching for new markets, and we had a north-south axis asset in Asia and the western Pacific.

Opposed initially by members of the ASEAN countries for its just being another layer of bureaucracy for talking heads, it has since featured a leader’s gathering where the photo op included local attire, until Obama put a stop to the tradition in Honolulu when the aloha shirts went with the luggage but not obligatory before the cameras that clicked the salutatory lineup of nation’s predominantly male head honchos (like the generic “man” in English for the specie, “hanchas” and “hanchettes,” Hillary’s presence notwithstanding—with Aussie Janet Madden, Mexico’s Gloria Manzo, Peru’s Jessica Soto, and Sylvia Curran of the U.S. attending, are not acceptable female leader’s terms!).

We traveled to Mohe in the northernmost city of Inner Mongolia

By **JAIME R. VERGARA**

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Former PSS teacher Jaime Vergara now teaches at Hang Gong Hang Tian Da Zue, Shenyang Aerospace University and is currently traveling in north Inner Mongolia in the prefecture of Hulunbeier.



this summer, and we were educated again on the fact that the territory once referred to as Outer Manchuria that birthed Vladivostok (*Yongmingcheng*, the city of eternal light to the Mongols, *Hashen-wai*, the city of sea cucumber cliffs to the Han), ceded in the unequal treaties signed by the weak Manchu Qing dynasty and Russia’s Tsar in the mid-1800, was a creation of tribes like those of the Mohe, the Liao, and the Jin.

In fact, Far East Russia is similar to the movement of the Han to China’s extremadura by the European Russians west of the Urals. Nevertheless, much of the ethnicity and DNA of Outer Manchuria make cousins of the Nippon, Hanggul, Manchus, and Mongols that once peopled the region. History buffs will recall that the weakened Manchu rule had Russia and Japan fighting over real estate in Manchuria, while the European powers took a not-too-slow boat to China, working their way up the Changjiang (Yantze River) where the Germans were Aleman upriver in Wuhan.

So, what has this got to do with 9-1-1?

“The economy, stupid!” was James Carville’s contribution to getting Bill Clinton into the White House, replacing erstwhile popular incumbent (and former CIA head) George H. Bush (thus, the strength of the Cheney White House rhetoric).

On the triangular poles of resources, production, and distribution as the dynamics of the economic process, the management of the distribution end, particularly those who guide its exchange mechanisms, has lorded it over the structures and direction of the world economy. The monetary value of “white collar” manager long ago replaced the seat once occupied by the factory floor supervisor of the “blue collar” worker, which earlier replaced the position of the farm *obreros y campesinos con sombreros* in the pecking order of the social realm.

Continuing upheavals, particularly in the mining and use of fossil fuel (next to Hillary, the highest official in the U.S. delegation has the energy portfolio), and the financial speculations of both, particularly as it applies to food production, dominated APEC talk. Unfortunately, the focus was not really on actual food security as it was on the financial figures on everyone’s ledger.

Vladivostok did let us watch Vladimir Putin act presidential for a change, unfazed by the gnat bites of the Pussy Riot girls!

“The economy, stupid,” remains Carville’s irrelevant slogan. We would be wise to give its real import heed.

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Exciting times for favorite political animals

Everybody seems to agree that politics is going to the dogs. All we have left to decide is how the dogs would vote.

People who haven't cast a ballot in an election since the Carter administration are, I recently learned, passionate about their pets' political opinions. They know their pets' position concerning Kazakhstan's development of nuclear capabilities as well as their views on Medicare cutbacks; they will explain these details to you with almost the same level of enthusiasm they display while explaining how their ferret Nomad got his name ("He was just wandering around the cage, see? Just, like, exploring! Get it?")

I discovered this recently as my husband sat with our cats in the living room and watched the national conventions. Some speakers made the cats purr; some speakers made them fidget. On several dramatic occasions, they started grooming themselves in what could only be interpreted as elaborate satiric commentary worthy of the commedia dell'arte.

"The cats are independents," I observed.

"All cats are independent," sighed Michael, who doesn't enjoy having his television viewing experience interrupted by what I consider to be my absolutely delightful conversational whimsies.

"No: I mean they're independents as in unaffiliated. They're undecided. They're swing voters."

Expecting him to leave the room and pour himself another scotch, I was surprised when Michael replied thoughtfully, in his sonorous, professorial voice. "I doubt they'd vote for this particular Republican team. Cats are, after all, pro-choice in everything."

Even with their back legs lifted like chorus girls in the Moulin

Rouge, the cats paused to stare. "Do we have to go to the polls?" they seemed to ask. "For ID, can we use donation slips in our names from the Humane Society?"

Since the conversation on the couch, I've discovered that many people, even the sort who will not tell you their favorite dessert topping because it might reveal too much about their inner lives, have strong opinions concerning their pets' political views.

Just ask an acquaintance "Who does Earwax, your puppy, like for November?" and watch the person launch into passionate detail. If you're smart, you'll get a cup of coffee and sit down. You're going to be there a long, long time.

Although many proud pet owners trust that their furry dependents would vote the appropriate party line, others are denied the satisfaction one might expect of a proprietor. One of these is Steven Dupler, a filmmaker from New York whose rescue puppy is named Oliver. Dupler admits, with a sense of apology, that his dog's vote could be easily bought because "He operates out of economic self-interest (read: treats), so whichever candidate offers the most attractive treat-based incentive will likely win his support. Also, a note to both parties: A belly rub couldn't hurt." (I presume he was talking about the dog.)

Barbara Taylor, who wrote me on Facebook, agrees that her cats might also be a bit too easily bought off: "My cats will vote for whoever will subsidize catnip and treats or give mommy and daddy a tax deduction for maintaining them in their accustomed high standard of living."

Interestingly, a significant number of people believe the animals in their lives represent the political opposition.

By **GINA BARRECA**

The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut, a feminist scholar who has written eight books, and a columnist for the Hartford Courant. She can be reached through her website at <http://www.ginabarreca.com>.



This makes a nice change from the significant number of people who believe the political opposition are animals.

For example, Jennifer Cain wrote that her cat would vote Republican because, "She already thinks that she owns everything and tries to destroy anything she deems less worthy than herself." This rather neatly balances out a remark made by a conservative pal, author Mark Goldblatt, who, although not having a pet, feels free to comment on behalf of his girlfriend's cat: "She is ridden with white liberal guilt, so she's voting for O so that the other cats will think well of her." (I presume he's talking about the cat.)

We're given many important lessons by our pets: lessons concerning loyalty, playfulness, and how to coerce somebody into following you with a scooper and a plastic bag. And I believe both major parties make a serious error in not courting the pet vote, especially in households where the feral, furry and unaffiliated live (don't presume I'm talking about the pets).

There's more than one way to swing a cat.

Kosovo marks a milestone toward multi-ethnic democracy

Monday (Sept. 10), the training wheels come off in Kosovo. That's the day the international community officially ends its oversight of our country and turns full responsibility for the courts, the constitution, the parliament—everything—over to the people of Kosovo and their elected leaders. This is a huge milestone on our journey to becoming Europe's newest nation—and a multi-ethnic, free-market democracy.

Emerging after the breakup of the former Yugoslavia and enduring war, genocide and ethnic conflict, Kosovo has traveled a rocky road to independence. It is a project that could not have succeeded without the peacekeeping efforts of the United States and NATO, which contributed tens of thousands of troops to the Kosovo campaign. Today, our success is your success.

But whether Kosovo—whose population is less than 2 million, multi-ethnic and multi-religious, and 75 percent under age 35—continues its historic progress should concern countries well beyond the Western Balkans. If Kosovo—so far a success story for democratic values—cannot stride confidently toward a European future, then this promising new nation and many similar societies may be tempted to stumble backwards into the mindsets of the past.

Closing the International Civilian Office (ICO)—which was created by the 25-nation International Steering Group (ISG) to guide Kosovo's early years of independence—and ending its more than four-year supervision of our government is a recognition that Kosovo has evolved into a mature, independent democracy, capable of making its own decisions without foreign oversight.

In fact, the ISG agreed to close the civilian office and move for-

ward with Kosovo's independence after our parliament approved amendments to the country's constitution protecting democracy and diversity, including laws promoting cultural autonomy, religious freedom, community rights and decentralized government.

Now that authority has passed from the international supervisors to the Kosovar people, our government is addressing a host of challenges, at home and abroad. Striving to rebuild our economy and tackle unemployment in the midst of a worldwide recession and the aftermath of regional conflicts, we are aggressively seeking foreign investment and wooing companies in agriculture, mining, manufacturing, tourism and clean energy.

To keep our commitment to diversity and decentralization, we have established the Mitrovica North Administrative Office to provide services to the citizens of this Serbian-majority region. The Language Commission and the Dealing with the Past initiative are striving to help every citizen, regardless of religion or ethnicity, to find a place in a shared society and state and to face the future with confidence.

In a similar spirit, we are striving to repair relations with Serbia, recognizing that peace and good relations with our neighbor are essential not only for stability in the Balkans but also for both of our nations to be accepted into the European community.

The Kosovar people understand that full independence also means full responsibility. That is why we are working so hard for democratic consolidation, economic liberalization and ethnic reconciliation. Our progress should be rewarded with full participation in the appropriate international organizations, including integration into the European Union and NATO.

By **HASHIM THACI**

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Hashim Thaci is the prime minister of Kosovo.



Kosovo's place within the EU family is well-deserved. Kosovo has held multi-party parliamentary elections and is striving toward a free-market economy with low taxes, sound banking, protections for investors and legislation compatible with the EU. We have already adopted the euro as our official currency and made our national laws available in English to help foreign investors understand our legal system.

At stake are not only Kosovar's institutions but also democratic values and the European idea. The United States and its NATO allies should be proud that, through their intervention in Kosovo, they helped prevent ethnic cleansing and promoted multi-ethnic democracy. Now, the EU's leaders need to make it clear to the people of the Balkans that the road we are traveling—the road toward Brussels, toward European unity—is the right road to reach progress and prosperity.

Almost two decades ago, the Kosovo War served as a catalyst for democratization and European integration. At this milestone moment, we are ready to meet the challenges and continue our historic journey.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Thank you for HB 17-315

Thank you to Mr. Joe Pangelinan, Mr. Mark Staal, Mr. Paul Joyce, Ms. Phyllis Ain, and Rep. Eli Cabrera for working hard on behalf of active employee members of the CNMI Retirement Fund, to see the passage of House Bill 17-315, and to the members of the 17th CNMI Legislature for their support. Mr. Pangelinan and Mr. Staal have worked especially hard to organize active employees and keep us informed.

As has been very thoughtfully and clearly explained over the course of the past year by Mr. Pangelinan and Mr. Staal, the active employee members of the Retirement Fund represent an enormous future unfunded liability to the CNMI government. Simply put, there are no employees following us who will be paying into the Fund. It estimated that covering these "unfunded" future retirees will come at a cost of over one billion dollars to the CNMI government. This is an inconceivable amount to raise and pay out, even for the healthiest of retirement funds, without a body of employees who follow paying into the system. There are simply no investments the Fund can make that will raise even close to enough revenue to cover the full costs of re-

tirement for the active employees.

So we have a solution on the table that, while certainly painful to retirees who will basically be getting back what they put in, is the best option on that table. It is an option that is certainly supported by the vast majority of active employees, who have met to discuss options, and who signed the petition expressing this as the best option considering all of the circumstances.

HB 17-315 will ensure that this large body of employees does not in the end lose all of the wages they've had gamished toward a retirement program that by all acknowledgements, and by simple accounting, will not be able to live up to the contractual promises made. It will allow active employees to take their funds and make alternative investments for themselves and their families...before it's too late. It will ensure that this enormous unfunded liability will never come to fruition. And it will limit focus on solutions to the body of current retirees.

I've heard all sorts of "arguments" against this plan, from "employees will just waste their money," to "the CNMI should devise a new retirement plan." Let's remember that these funds were taken from employee earnings to pay into a program promising specific returns, returns that cannot even under the best of investment circumstances be paid. These are funds that represent earned pay, and how those funds may be managed is no one's business but the respective employee. Most of us have plans to roll over those earnings into invest-

ments that will benefit our families in the long run. And with regard to devising a new "plan"—there is simply NO math that will account for any plan, that will come close to meeting the contractual promises of the retirement plan we were obligated to participate in.

It certainly can't be easy for many of the active employees, who have come to accept that they will probably have to work many more years than they planned in order to see any benefits from Social Security. They will have to make a multitude of alterations to their life plans. Many will have to work well into very old age. For this active employee, this is a sacrifice that I can make for my family and my daughters. Ensuring our earnings taken toward a retirement fund that by all accounts will not be able to see us through our retirement years are returned now will go a long way to seeing that we can make investments now that will best benefit our lives and our families in the future. They will be of little use in seven or 10 or 15 years from now, if they are there at all.

Thank you again to Mr. Pangelinan, Mr. Staal, Speaker Cabrera, and all of those who worked hard to see HB 17-315 developed and passed, and thank you to Governor Fitial for his consideration signing it.






Robert H. Hunter

Sadog Tasi, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Southeast winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 5 to 15 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87 ° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 78°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 79
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 84 ▼ 75
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Showers	▲ 88 ▼ 78
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	▲ 88 ▼ 75
Majuro	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 80

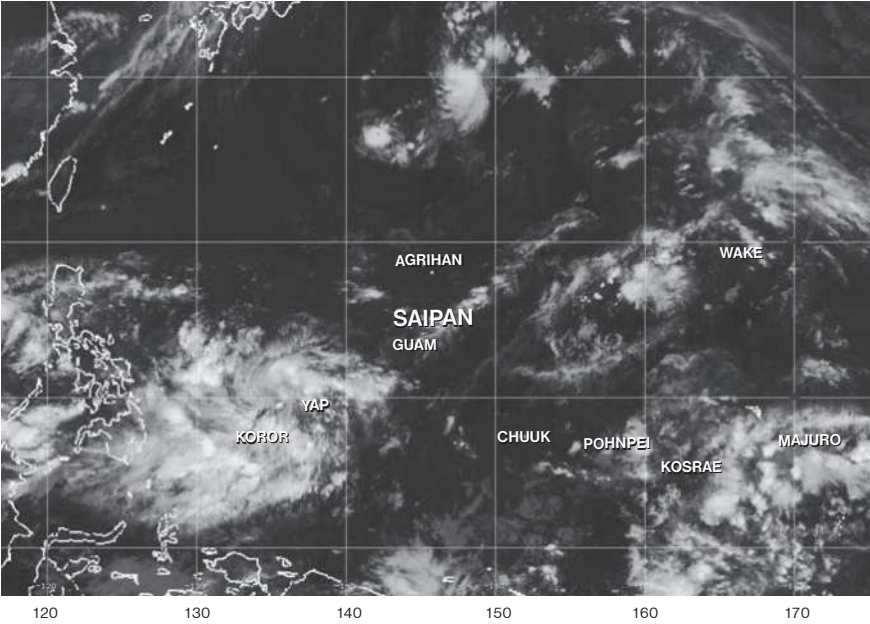
Around The Globe

Auckland	Sunny	▲ 56 ▼ 48
Beijing	Partly Cloudy	▲ 77 ▼ 56
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 81
Honolulu	Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 74
London	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 50
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 80 ▼ 65
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 49
Miami	Thundershowers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
New York	Sunny	▲ 75 ▼ 57
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 73
Paris	Showers	▲ 67 ▼ 52
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 80 ▼ 70
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 84 ▼ 65
Salem	Sunny	▲ 71 ▼ 46
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 67 ▼ 55
Seoul	Showers	▲ 76 ▼ 67
Tokyo	Thundershowers	▲ 84 ▼ 73
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 60

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
10:58 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
6:12 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.6 Feet
11:35 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 10, 2012

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough extends southeastward from the central Philippines through 10N130E and a circulation centered southeast of Yap at 8N140E to end south of Kosrae at 1N164E. Numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms are occurring over Koror and Yap between 11N and 5N from 130E to 140E. Scattered showers are found southeast of Yap between 5N and the equator from 139E to 150E. Converging southwest winds are triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms east of the Marianas between 17N and 13N from 150E to 160E. Converging south winds are combining with upper-level divergence to produce scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Wake Island between 25N and 15N from 163E to 171E. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms just south of Majuro within 160 miles of a line from EQ164E to 4N169E to 5N180. Similar weather is present north of Kosrae within 80 miles of a line from 5N159E to 9N165E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:05 AM	6:22 PM
Wednesday	6:05 AM	6:21 PM
Thursday	6:05 AM	6:20 PM
Friday	6:05 AM	6:19 PM
Saturday	6:06 AM	6:19 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	1:24 AM	2:32 PM
Wednesday	2:16 AM	3:17 PM
Thursday	3:09 AM	4:01 PM
Friday	4:03 AM	4:45 PM
Saturday	4:57 AM	5:29 PM

Note: Blank spaces indicate that a rising or a setting did not occur during that 24-hour interval.

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The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

PICTURES

- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.

CAMPUS BULLETIN

Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPT 11, 2012

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:10am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:45am	5:40am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP)				ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
UA5062	2:40am	3:15am	1, 3, 5	UA5062	3:40am	4:15am	1, 3, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA5070	4:35am	5:25am	2, 4, 6, 7	UA5062	2:40am	4:20am	1, 3, 5 via ROP
UA5062	4:50am	5:40am	1, 3, 5	UA 5069	2:45am	3:35am	2, 4, 6, 7
UA5068	8:40am	9:30am	Daily	UA5071	7:10am	8:00am	Daily
UA5074	11:30am	12:20pm	1, 4, 5, 7	UA5073	10:05am	10:55am	Daily
UA5076	3:10pm	4:00pm	Daily	UA5075	1:45pm	2:35pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA5078	6:50pm	7:40pm	Daily	UA5077	5:25pm	6:15pm	Daily
UA5072	9:55pm	10:45pm	Daily	UA5079	8:35pm	9:25pm	Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)				NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN			
DL287	6:05am	8:45am	Daily	DL298	10:25am	3:00pm	Daily
DL285	6:30am	9:15am	1, 3, 5, 7	DL286	7:40pm	12:15am +1	2, 4, 6, 7
DL297	4:35pm	7:20pm	Daily	DL288	8:15pm	12:50am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
OZ606	2:20am	6:00am	1	OZ603	8:50am	2:20pm	Daily
OZ606	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ605	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ604	3:30pm	6:55pm	Daily	OZ605	8:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN (SPN)-PUSAN (BUS)				PUSAN (BUS)-SAIPAN (SPN)			
U2608	3:20am	6:35am	4, 7	OZ607	9:25pm	2:20am+1	3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANZHOU (CAN)				GUANZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN			
3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6	3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN			
3U8648	6:10am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:40pm	5:00am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/701	2:20am	11:05am	1 via ICN	DL172/288	7:50am	12:50am+1	Daily via NRT
OZ606/701	2:50am	11:05am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	UA190/5077	10:55am	6:15pm	3, 6 via GUM
UA5070/191	4:35am	9:55am	3, 6 via GUM	UA190/5079	10:55am	9:25pm	3, 6 via GUM
DL287/173	6:05am	10:00pm	Daily via NRT	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
UA5076/183	3:10pm	8:45pm	Daily via GUM	OZ702/605	12:15pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
UA5076/193	3:10pm	10:25pm	2, 5 via GUM-Palau	PR110/UA5071	10:10pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ604/703	3:30pm	10:45pm	Daily via ICN	UA192/5071	9:45pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM-Palau
UA5072/PR111	9:55pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	UA184/5071	10:55pm	8:00am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
				UA184/5071	11:25pm	8:00am+1	2, 5 via GUM
				OZ704/603	11:45pm	2:20pm+1	Daily via ICN
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
OZ606/721	2:20am	11:50pm	1 via ICN	OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	Daily via ICN
OZ606/721	2:50am	11:50pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:10am+1	7
UA5076/147	3:10pm	9:40pm	1, 5 via GUM	OZ722/605	1:10pm	1:45am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
OZ604/749	3:30pm	11:00pm	Daily via ICN	UA180/5071	10:50pm	8:00am+1	1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana							
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)							

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 100	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



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- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

APEC vows to fend off euro woes, boost finances

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia (AP)—Pacific Rim leaders pledged Sunday to fend off the deepening damage from the European crisis and revive flagging growth in the region by supporting open trade, reforming their economies and strengthening public finances.

The 21-member Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum wrapped up an annual summit in this far eastern Russian seaport Sunday, vowing to work together to support growth and restore confidence in shaken financial markets. The region accounts for about half of all world economic activity and 40 percent of world trade.

"Our work was constructive. We have specific results and I am satisfied with the outcome of the work," Russian President Vladimir Putin said of the event, which showcased Moscow's ambitions to expand trade and business along its long-neglected Pacific coast.

The leaders issued a statement welcoming European leaders' promises to help stabilize the crisis-stricken euro region and warning against "excess volatility" and distortions in financial markets. The APEC leaders said they would work to reduce deficits and imbalances in their countries' own finances.

"The events in Europe are adversely affecting growth in the region. In such circumstances, we are resolved to work collectively to support growth and foster financial stability, and restore confidence," the statement said.

"We remain committed to reducing imbalances by strengthening deficit economies' public finances with sound and sustainable policies that take into account evolving economic conditions," it said.

Despite signs that robust growth in the dynamic Asia-Pacific is being dragged down by reduced demand for the region's exports, Putin described

the attitude among his fellow leaders as one of "constrained optimism."

The APEC region is generally not as heavily encumbered as Europe by soaring social welfare costs, Putin said.

"There is nothing like the burden that exists in Europe," Putin said, though he acknowledged that the region faces many problems.

Given APEC's role as a consensus led forum, the annual summit did not advance any major new policy initiatives. The leaders' statement mostly endorsed earlier calls for freer trade, combatting corruption and allowing exchange rates to fluctuate more freely.

The leaders also called for closer cooperation on food security and avoiding potentially destabilizing surges in food prices.

Food security "is one of the most acute problems of our time," Putin said in convening Sunday's meeting.

Coca-Cola's newest drink is just a few drops

NEW YORK (AP)—Coca-Cola's newest drink won't come in a bottle or a can. And people will only need a squirt or two to quench their thirst.

The world's largest beverage company is introducing its Dasani Drops in coming weeks, which can be squeezed into water for some on-the-spot fruity flavor. And Coca-Cola is betting that there's big potential for growth.

"I think there's an opportunity beyond just flavored waters," said John Roddey, vice president of Coca-Cola's water, tea and coffee business in North America.

Although there are no set plans yet, Roddey says the next logical category for liquid drops would be tea. That's because drinks with higher sugar content are harder to turn into

a liquid concentrate.

The Coca-Cola Co. isn't the first to come out with flavor drops. The category was pioneered by Kraft Food Inc.'s MiO, which was introduced in March of last year and has quickly spawned copycats, including by supermarkets that sell store-brand versions.

The drops are popular because they come in small, portable containers that can be easily tucked into a purse or even back pocket. And unlike powdered drink packets, people can decide how much or little they want to squirt into their water. A small bottle can also have more than two dozen servings, meaning people save money they'd spend on bottled teas or enhanced waters.

As with Kraft's MiO drinks, Dasani Drops use artificial

sweeteners and have zero calories. That could be a concern for consumers who don't like artificial sweeteners, which often have a strong aftertaste.

Now Coca-Cola is preparing to leverage its scale to stake a claim in the category. Roddey says the plan is to make Dasani Drops available wherever its Dasani bottled water is sold, including on supermarket shelves, in checkout aisles or in the refrigerated sections in convenience stores.

"We're looking to make this as broad as we can," he said.

Dasani Drops, which will cost about \$4, will start hitting shelves in early October. The company is starting with four flavors, but is already planning to introduce additional flavors next year. Each bottle has about 32 servings.

nis Samaras and the other two leaders—socialist Evangelos Venizelos and Fotis Kouvelis of the Democratic Left—disagreed on across-the-board cuts in pensions and wages. The latter two insisted that Greece's international creditors give the country more time to implement the spending cuts. The three agreed to meet again Wednesday evening. Before that, Samaras will meet with the creditors' representatives on Monday and, on Tuesday, with European Central Bank president Mario Draghi, in Frankfurt.

Treasury to cut AIG stake below half in \$18B sale

NEW YORK (AP)—The U.S. government is selling more of its shares in insurer American International Group Inc., in a move that should decrease its holdings below a majority stake for the first time since the \$182 billion bailout in 2008. The sale is the latest step to recoup taxpayer money spent on the largest bailout of the financial crisis. AIG said Sunday that the Treasury Department is selling \$18 billion worth of its common shares to institutional investors. If there is more demand, the government will grant the underwriters a 30-day option to buy up to \$2.7 billion more of its stake in the company.

Nation

Obama's task: Keep the race a choice

CHARLOTTE, N.C. (AP)—President Barack Obama's fall mission: Remind voters why they chose him in the first place, hope the economy doesn't get worse - and paint Mitt Romney as an unacceptable alternative.

"On every issue, the choice you face won't be just between two candidates or two parties. It will be a choice between two different paths for America," the Democrat said Thursday as he accepted his party's nomination.

His re-election is far from certain, and his task is far from easy, despite the built-in advantages of incumbency.

In a sharp reminder of that, the government reported Friday that 96,000 jobs were added in August, reflecting persistent weakness in the economy. The unemployment rate dropped to 8.1 percent, but only because more people gave up looking for jobs. No president since Franklin D. Roosevelt has been re-elected with a jobless rate higher than 8 percent.

Over the next 10 weeks, Obama—the country's first black president—will push to make history again. In ads and speeches, he'll try to do it by casting the campaign as a choice: give his economic policies more time to flourish or bet on Romney's agenda that the president says would sim-



President Barack Obama speaks during a campaign stop at Florida Institute of Technology's Charles and Ruth Clemente Center in Melbourne, Fla., Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012.

ply benefit the wealthy at the expense of the middle class.

Polls show a close race, and Republicans and Democrats alike expect that to be the case until November, barring some surprise.

Nearly a quarter of voters say they haven't decided on a candidate or could still change their mind, meaning Obama's focus will be two-fold: fire up his base without alienating unaligned, independent voters.

That will be the goal when he and Romney face off in a series of high-stakes October debates.

For now, the contest centers on the seven states where surveys show neither side has a significant advantage: Colorado, Florida, Iowa, Ohio, Nevada, New Hampshire and Virginia. Obama won them all four years ago, and he's banking on his expansive voter registration and get-out-the-vote operation—bolstered by information technology and social media—to make up for Romney and his Republican allies' significant cash advantage on TV. Obama has some ground to make up in North Carolina, where he held his convention.

Chicago teachers to strike after talks fail

CHICAGO (AP)—Chicago's public school teachers will be on strike Monday morning for the first time in 25 years after their union announced that intense, months-long contract talks with the school district had failed over issues including compensation, health benefits and teacher evaluations.

"We will be on the (picket) line," Chicago Teachers Union President Karen Lewis said after emerging from all-day talks with district negotiators.

"This is a difficult decision and one we hoped we could have avoided," she said. "We must do things differently in this city if we are to provide

our students with the education they so rightfully deserve."

More than 26,000 teachers and support staff are expected to hit the picket lines first thing Monday, while the school district and parents carry out plans for keeping nearly 400,000 students safe and occupied while classes remain empty in the coming days in the nation's third largest school district.

Mayor Rahm Emanuel condemned the union's decision, calling the action "unnecessary" and "a strike by choice." He said the negotiations had come down primarily to two issues that he claimed could be resolved

if the two sides kept talking, "given how close we are."

"Our kids don't deserve this," Emanuel said. "The kids of Chicago belong in the classroom."

School board President David Vitale had first announced Sunday night that talks had broken off, despite the school board offering what he called a fair and responsible contract that would cover four years and meet most of the union's demands. He said the talks with the union had been "extraordinarily difficult."

Emanuel said the district had offered the teachers a 16 percent pay raise over four years.

2 tornadoes strike in NYC; no injuries reported

NEW YORK (AP)—Two tornadoes struck the outer edges of New York City on Saturday, hurling debris into the air and knocking out power but causing no serious injuries among startled residents accustomed to thinking of twisters as a Midwestern phenomenon.

The first hit a beachfront neighborhood and the second, stronger tornado followed moments later about 10 miles away.

Videos taken by bystanders showed a funnel cloud sucking up water, then sand, and then small pieces of buildings, as the first moved

through the Breezy Point section of the Rockaway peninsula in Queens.

The second hit to the northwest, in the Canarsie section of Brooklyn also near the water, about seven minutes later. The National Weather Service said winds were up to 110 miles per hour, and several homes and trees were damaged.

Residents had advance notice. The weather service had issued a tornado warning for Queens and Brooklyn at around 10:40 a.m. The storm took people by surprise anyway when it struck about 20 minutes later.

"I was showing videos of tor-

nadoes to my 4-year-old on my phone, and two minutes later, it hit," said Breezy Point neighborhood resident Peter Maloney. "Just like they always say, it sounded like a train."

In the storm's wake, the community of seaside bungalows was littered with broken flower pots, knocked-down fences and smashed windows.

At the Breezy Point Surf Club, the tornado ripped the roofs off rows of cabanas, scattered deck chairs and left a heavy metal barbecue and propane tank sitting in the middle of a softball field, at least 100 yards from any nearby home.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

France's Hollande warns economy to stall in 2013

PARIS (AP)—French President Francois Hollande is blaming a worse-than-expected economic slowdown for new cuts in the government's growth forecast. Speaking Sunday in a televised interview on French channel TF1, Hollande said gross domestic product growth will be "barely" above zero this year and only 0.8 percent in 2013. His Socialist government had previously predicted 1.2 percent growth for next year. Hollande also is pledging to forge ahead with a controversial plan to raise income tax on France's wealthiest citizens to 75 percent. He said he expects to unveil proposals for lifting France's growth and ability to compete by the end of the year, with the results expected to be felt in 2014.

Greek govt fails to agree on spending cuts

ATHENS, Greece (AP)—The leaders of the three parties in Greece's coalition government failed to agree Sunday on a package of spending cuts worth €11.5 billion (\$14.7 billion), a raft of measures the prime minister had said is crucial to restoring the country's financial credibility and sustaining its bailout funding. Conservative Premier Anto-

Asia

Pakistan ends weeks of fighting; over 100 dead

KHAR, Pakistan (AP)—Pakistani security forces pushed Taliban militants who came from Afghanistan back across the border after more than two weeks of fighting in a mountainous tribal region, spokesmen for both sides said Sunday. The government says over 100 people were killed in the offensive.

The violence in the northwestern Bajur area highlighted the growing problem of Taliban militants using sanctuaries in Afghanistan to attack Pakistan. The frequency of the raids has increased, and this was the first instance in which Pakistani Taliban militants coming from Afghanistan seized and held territory in Pakistan for a significant amount of time.

Pakistan has called on Afghan and NATO forces to do more to stop militants from crossing into the country. Kabul and the international coalition have acknowledged the problem, but also want Pakistan to do more to stop militants holed up on its territory from launching attacks into Afghanistan.

Security forces finally managed to push the militants back from the Salarzai region of Bajur on Saturday, said Jehangir Azam Wazir, the top political official in the area.

"Unexpectedly, the militants showed tough resistance this time, but finally our security forces along with volunteers of the Salarzai militia succeeded in eliminating them," said Wazir.

The dead included at least 80 militants, 18 civilians, 12 anti-Taliban militiamen and eight soldiers, he said. An additional 13 soldiers are missing and are believed to be in the hands of the Taliban.

Hundreds of people who were trapped by the fighting in a string of villages along the border were finally able to leave Saturday. They had been confined to their homes, and many were running low on food.

"Those days were very difficult and passed with a lot of hardship," said Hikmat Jan, who had been stranded with his family in Gambat village.

"We were unable to go out and were tense, fearing the militants would come kidnap us or we would be killed by shelling or starve to death because we were running out of food."

Jan said the dead were strewn across the village.

"I saw many bodies in the fields and streets," said Jan. "I don't know whether they were militants, volunteers or fellow villagers."

Gul Mohammed, who was caught outside his home in Batwar village by the fighting, said he was finally able to reunite with his relatives after weeks of separation.

"I had no hope I would be able to see my family and my children alive again," said Mohammed. "Nothing gives me more happiness than seeing my family back safe and alive."

Thousands of others who managed to flee before the fighting ended have been provided food by the government, said the top political official in Bajur, Syed Abdul Jabbar Shah.

China quake survivors await shelter, expect rain

BEIJING (AP)—Survivors of multiple earthquakes in southwestern China waited for shelter and other supplies on Monday amid forecasts of heavy rains that are likely to hinder ongoing search efforts.

The earthquakes on Friday in a mountainous area toppled thousands of homes and sent boulders tumbling down slopes, killing 81 people and injuring more than 800.

They struck a region of small farms and mines near the border between Guizhou and Yunnan provinces, where some of China's poorest people live.

About 60,000 residents from Jiaokui town in Yiliang county, about 3 kilometers (2 miles) from the epicenter of one of the earthquakes, had been evacuated to open spaces, an official surnamed Guo said by telephone from the township government office.

Guo said only the older survivors had tents, and that food, water, cotton quilts, clothes and medicine were also needed.

The official Xinhua News Agency cited local authorities as saying mobile phone services in the quake-hit areas had been basically restored.

The region was expected to be hit by medium to heavy rains on Monday and Tuesday, bringing the threat of rain-triggered landslides that could cause more casualties and complicate search efforts, Xinhua cited rescuers as saying.

Footage from China Central Television showed rescuers and sniffer dogs running past steep slopes because of the risk of fist-sized stones tumbling down. It also showed an ambulance stuck in stones and debris.

A resident of Luozehe town, close to where the quakes struck, said he and others were

evacuated to a more central area of the county. "It's quite hot here. There isn't enough drinking water or tents," said Wu Xuehong, who described seeing dead livestock after farm buildings collapsed.

More than 11,000 tents, 10,500 quilts, 6,000 coats and other supplies including bottled water and rice have been delivered to Yiliang and more are on the way, Xinhua said, citing the rescue headquarters.

The first magnitude-5.6 quake struck just before 11:30 a.m. Friday and was followed by an equally strong quake shortly after noon. Though of moderate strength, the quakes were shallow. Such quakes often cause more damage than deeper ones.

As of noon Sunday, there had been 279 aftershocks, said Zhang Junwei, spokesman of Yunnan's seismological bureau.

killed another 13 people and left two missing in central Vietnam over the past week. The agency says on its website that flooding caused by heavy rains has caused an estimated \$22 million in damage to rice crops and infrastructure.

Filipino rebels sorry for grenade that hit circus

DAVAO, Philippines (AP)—Communist rebels have apologized for a grenade attack on an army detachment that wounded dozens of villagers in the southern Philippines. The rebels promised to indemnify the victims. Regional rebel spokesman Rigoberto Sanchez

said in a statement Sunday that New People's Army guerrillas behind the Sept. 1 attack in Davao city's Paquibato district made a "gross mistake in judgment" when they targeted army troops near villagers. Sanchez said the rebels who waged the attack are being investigated and face possible "disciplinary action." Paquibato police chief Romeo Abler says the grenade hurled by the rebels toward an army outpost hit a protective net and bounced toward a nearby crowd of villagers watching a circus performance, wounding 48 people, including children. Abler says criminal charges will be filed against the rebels.

World

McCain: Iran situation a 'train wreck'

CERNOBBIO, Italy (AP)—U.S. Sen. John McCain says he is disappointed with his party's presidential candidate for side-stepping world affairs in his campaign for the White House but reserves his most scathing words for the current dweller, blaming Barack Obama for inaction while the situation in Syria and elsewhere "cries out for American leadership."

In an interview with The Associated Press in Italy on Saturday, the 2008 Republican presidential candidate criticized the man who won that election for not aiding rebels in Syria, abandoning Iraq and Afghanistan, and delaying tough decisions on Iran's nuclear program.

"In a way it's almost like watching a train wreck," he said of the apparent failure to stem Iran's nuclear efforts.

What does the senator from Arizona make of the notable absence of such talk at last month's Republican National Convention that nominated Mitt Romney and focused mostly on the economy? The famous straight-talker was cautiously bipartisan.

"Yup, it was" absent, he said. "The election is about jobs and



AP

U.S. Sen. John McCain gestures during an interview with AP reporter Dan Perry (not shown) on the sidelines of a meeting on World Economy in Cernobbio, Italy, Saturday, Sept. 8, 2012.

the economy, but a failed ... national security policy over time is going to lead to significant domestic problems."

"It's the job of presidents and candidates to lead and articulate their vision for America's role in the world. The world is a more dangerous place than it's been since the end of the Cold War, and so I think the president should lead and I think candidates for the presidency

should lead and talk about it, and I'm disappointed that there hasn't been more."

McCain is visiting Italy's Ambrosetti Forum, an annual gathering of political and business leaders, together with two fellow senators—Connecticut independent Joe Lieberman and South Carolina Republican Lindsay Graham—following a tour that took them through the Middle East.

Serbia says it has witness about organ harvesting

BELGRADE, Serbia (AP)—A Serbian prosecutor said Sunday that a witness has come forward and testified "in detail" about how ethnic Albanian rebels allegedly harvested organs for trafficking from Serbs taken captive during a war in Kosovo, claims Albania and Kosovo have previously denied.

"We have a witness who testified about a medical procedure, done in northern Albania, that consisted of harvesting organs from Serbs kidnapped during the 1998-99 conflict in Kosovo," said Serbia's War Crimes prosecutor Vladimir Vukcevic.

The alleged witness — a former Kosovo Albanian

rebel whom Vukcevic did not identify by name — claims to have participated in a surgery involving harvesting a heart from a Serb captive in northern Albania and transporting it to the airport near Tirana, Albania's capital, Vukcevic told the Associated Press.

"We estimate that the information this witness has given is true," Vukcevic said, adding that Serbian prosecutors have been checking the witness' claims for more than a year.

The European Union has launched an investigation into claims of organ harvesting, but it was not immediately clear whether the EU investigation team, led by American pros-

ecutor John Clint Williamson, was familiar with the alleged testimony. Vukcevic said he expected "that the witness' testimony will help prosecutor Williamson's probe."

The EU probe followed a 2010 Council of Europe report by Swiss politician Dick Marty, who alleged that the rebel Kosovo Liberation Army ran detention camps on Albania's border during Kosovo's war for independence from Serbia. The report alleged that civilian captives were killed there and their organs sold as part of illegal trade linked to senior KLA commanders, including Kosovo's Prime Minister Hashim Thaci.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Landslides, flooding kill 29 in Vietnam

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—Officials say landslides and flooding caused by heavy rains have killed 29 people and left four missing in northern and central Vietnam. Disaster official Ngo Van Hung of northern Yen Bai province said Monday that 16 villagers from the mostly poor Hmong ethnic minority group died in a landslide while they were illegally collecting tin ore from a mine operated by a private company. Authorities are searching for two other people missing from Friday's incident, he added. The government disaster agency says flooding

WORLD BRIEFS

Nicaragua volcano calms some, but area under alert

MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—Activity in the San Cristobal volcano in Nicaragua has calmed a day after three loud explosions were accompanied by a huge eruption of ash and gas that led officials to evacuate about 3,000 people from nine nearby communities. Officials say the area remains under an alert. Nicaragua's geological institute says sporadic explosions have been heard Sunday and occasional ash columns have billowed up to heights between 1,500 meters (4,950 feet) and 5,000 meters (16,500 feet). On Saturday, the 1,740-meter (5,740-foot) volcano spewed out clouds of ash that traveled 50 kilometers (31 miles). San Cristobal has been active since 1520.

Power failure plunges western Cuba into darkness

HAVANA (AP)—Millions of people were plunged into darkness after power went out across a large swath of western Cuba. The outage affected a wide area including the capital, home to about 2 million people, and the popular beach resort of Varadero. On a humid, sweltering, late-summer Caribbean night, it knocked out air-conditioning units and electrical fans. "We were on our balcony waiting for our TV program," said Richard Laredo, a 47-year-old Havana resident who quickly transferred food from the refrigerator to the freezer. "Nobody knows what happened, but people are worried about what they have in their refrigerators."

Focus

Lenses shield 9-11 photogs as they capture history

By ALLEN G. BREED
AP NATIONAL WRITER

People look at some news photos shot on Sept. 11, 2001, and wonder how those who took them could bear to keep working in the face of such tragedy.

Richard Drew said his lens acts as a filter: "The things are happening over there, on the other side."

Another Associated Press photographer, the late Marty Lederhandler, put it this way: "I let the camera absorb all the disaster or the sadness of an event. It protects ME from the event."

For AP photographers working on Sept. 11, none knew the big picture of what was going on. All knew only what was happening right before their eyes, that it was part of something huge, and that it was their job to record it.

Five whose images of that day became iconic discussed how the photos came about, how endless hours of shooting sporting events, news conferences and everything in between helped prepare them for moments no one could ever have anticipated, and how their lenses helped shield them from the fears—and tears—that would come later.

■ ■ ■

After 65 years with the AP, Marty Lederhandler had pretty much seen and done it all.

In 1937, a year after joining the wire service, he'd helped cover the Hindenburg disaster. Seven years later, Lt. Lederhandler waded ashore at Utah Beach on D-Day, two carrier pigeons stowed safely in his bag to wing his undeveloped film back across the English Channel.

On Sept. 11, Lederhandler knew the real story was downtown. But he also knew that his 84-year-old legs wouldn't carry him that far.

He'd covered plenty of fires and explosions. When he couldn't get to the scene, he'd talk his way into someone's apartment and onto the fire escape—anything to get the angle. "You go behind. You go in back. You go up high," he said in a 2006 interview.

Up high! He grabbed his camera and some long lenses, and headed across Rockefeller Plaza, where AP was then based, to the GE Building—now better known as 30 Rock.

Lederhandler took the elevator to the 65th floor: the Rainbow Room. Except for waiters setting tables, the place was empty. He marched up to the big window, which offered stunning views of the Empire State Building and the burning Twin Towers beyond, and began shooting.

After about a half hour, the order came to evacuate. "They didn't know what building was going to be hit next," he recalled.

The frame chosen from his many exposures was shot tight enough to show the massive heft of the towers, the city's tallest skyscrapers, but wide enough to firmly place them in the crowded Manhattan skyline. Of course, Lederhandler had no way of knowing that, by day's end, the Empire State Building would once more dominate that skyline.



In this Sept. 11, 2001 file photo, the twin towers of the World Trade Center burn after hijacked planes crashed into them in New York.

He spent the rest of the day helping edit images brought in by freelancers and ordinary citizens.

"The only other story that compares to this is D-Day," he said.

Lederhandler retired three months later. He died last year at 92.

■ ■ ■

For Richard Drew, the second week in September always meant just one thing: Fall Fashion Week.

After 23 years in the business, he still looked forward to the twice-yearly fashion show as part of the "diversity of my job" as a New York-based AP photographer. Drew, who shared in the 1993 Pulitzer Prize, had long since learned there was no such thing as a routine assignment.

As a 21-year-old rookie shooter for the Pasadena Independent-Star News, Drew was at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles on June 5, 1968, where Robert Kennedy, fresh from winning the California Democratic presidential primary, was shot. Drew was one of only four photographers to capture Kennedy's last moments.

On Sept. 11, Drew was perched on a riser at the end of the runway, waiting for the fashion show to begin, when his cell phone rang.

"A plane's hit the World Trade Center," photo editor Barbara Woike said.

Drew rushed to the subway and took the No. 2 train to Chambers Street. Emerging from underground, he could see smoke now billowing from both towers. He took up a position near a line of ambulances to wait for casualties when suddenly a paramedic shouted, "Look! There's people coming out of the World Trade Center."

But she wasn't pointing down the street. She was pointing up.

"I just sort of clicked into automatic pilot," Drew recalled, "and started taking pictures of the people falling out of the building."

There is a cruel mechanics to capturing such tragedy, and the camera became his filter. The bodies tumbling

from the towers were moving very fast, and he worked to keep them in focus.

When he downloaded his images, one stood out: A man in black pants and a white jacket, one leg bent as he plummeted headfirst. It would become known simply as "The Falling Man."

To Drew, it was not a violent image, despite the inherent horror. It was "a very quiet, peaceful moment."

The photo would launch a quest to discover the doomed man's identity - and a public debate about whether such intimate moments should be off-limits. Of all the images from that day, it is one of the least often republished.

Drew thinks he knows why: "I think people react to it, because they can relate to that it might be them."

■ ■ ■

Sept. 11 started out for photographer Doug Mills like most days covering President George W. Bush on the road. Wake up before dawn, and go for a run. This day, it was at a golf course in Sarasota, Fla. Then back to the hotel for a quick shower and off to the day's first event - a visit with kids at Emma E. Booker Elementary School.

The motorcade was en route when Mills overheard snatches of a deputy press secretary's cell phone conversation. By the time they reached the school, they knew that a plane - no idea how big - had hit a New York building - no idea which one.

Mills and the other journalists were herded to the back of the classroom. Mills began shooting wide, to capture the president and the children arrayed in front of him.

About five minutes into the event, the classroom door opened, and White House chief of staff Andy Card stepped inside. Mills' antennae immediately went up: Card almost never attended events like this.

Making eye contact, Mills mouthed, "What's going on?"

Card merely held up two fingers. "We had NO idea at the time what that meant," says Mills. "So, like, 'Two

minutes, we're leaving?' ... Or, 'I'm going to talk to him in two minutes.' ..."

Mills sensed that Card was waiting for the right moment to go up to the president. He quickly switched to a longer lens, and prepared to zoom in tight on Bush.

After a few moments, Card walked to the front of the room, leaned in and whispered something into Bush's right ear. The president's face went blank.

Soon afterward, as the motorcade raced to the airport, Mills edited and sent his images. The classroom event was not televised live, so the AP photo desk grilled Mills about the president's reaction - his words, his facial expressions. When they asked what Card was telling Bush, for the caption, Mills could only say that it was about the planes hitting the twin towers.

"Great job, kid," he remembers AP Washington photo editor Bob Dougherty telling him.

It was only after they boarded Air Force One and began watching CNN that the full import of that morning's event came into focus. A classroom visit that had started out as a routine "photo-op" was now a moment in history.

"If the attacks had happened while we were at the White House," Mills says, "we would have not been there when Andy Card walked into the Oval Office and told the president."

Later, Mills asked Card what exactly he'd whispered into Bush's ear.

"Mr. President," Card said, "a second aircraft has hit the World Trade Center. America's under attack."

"When I hear those words," says Mills, who went to work for the New York Times in 2002, "and when I even say them myself, I get chills."

■ ■ ■

Ohio-based AP national photographer Amy Sancetta was in New York City to cover her tenth U.S. Open tennis tournament. She'd spent the week breaking in a pair of brand-new, super-fast Nikon D1H cameras, and

was looking forward to some free time.

Sancetta was kneeling on her hotel room floor, stowing her new cameras, when her phone rang. The desk had a report that a plane might have hit one of the World Trade Center towers and asked her to head there.

Her first thought was, "Oh, great. Some guy has driven his little twin-engine plane into the Trade Center, and it's going to take up my whole day off in the city."

She caught a cab and rode down Broadway until a police barricade stopped her from going farther. By then, the second tower was already smoking. The buildings must be packed, she thought. She got out her 80-200 mm zoom lens and began scanning the rows of windows of the South Tower for faces.

Suddenly, she heard a thunderous rumbling. She watched through her lens as the tower's top "kind of cracked and started to fall in on itself."

She could squeeze off only about a half-dozen frames before the tower disappeared. With her subject gone, Sancetta's sports shooter instincts kicked in. When covering a basketball game, it's long lens for the far court, short lens for the near court. She whipped out her other camera with its 14 mm, wide-angle lens and began firing away.

People were rushing past, buffeting her as they ran pell-mell from the rising debris cloud. As the camera whirled and clicked, her mind raced. "I hope my straight ups and downs are straight up and down."

The D1H had a 40-frame buffer, after which the camera would freeze so it could reacquire the images. As she waited, Sancetta suddenly realized that the debris cloud was about to overtake her, and she turned to run. Hurling down the street, her thought was, "Jeez! If I get hit by that cloud, it's going to ruin my beautiful new cameras."

She ran about half a block, then turned into a parking garage - just as the cloud whooshed past.

When she finally emerged, she stepped into what looked like a "winter wonderland of debris." She began picking her way back toward the Trade Center, shooting as she went. When she heard a second rumble, she lowered her camera and ran.

At last, she reached the office and was able to see what she had: the beginning of the South Tower's end.

And her straight ups and downs were straight up and down.

■ ■ ■

Gulnara Samoilova's shift in the AP photo library didn't start until noon, and she normally slept late. But this day the wail of sirens woke her.

"It just went on and on and on," recalls Samoilova, a native of the Russian Republic of Bashkortostan.

She turned on the TV and was watching at 9:03, when the second plane struck.

Samoilova's apartment was just four blocks from the World Trade Center. She grabbed her camera and a handful of film, and headed into the street.

Entering the south tower, she quickly decided the scene was too chaotic to shoot, and retreated.

Overdrive

New look, high-tech gadgets highlight 2013 Nissan Altima

By BARRY SPYKER
THE MIAMI HERALD

It seems like only yesterday that Nissan took the tired-looking Altima and converted it into a stylish, roomy and great-handling car. Alas, it was a decade ago already when that third-generation Altima dazzled the automotive world and took Car of the Year honors at the North American International Auto Show.

That was the third generation, followed by the fourth generation in 2007. So what did Nissan dare do to tamper with a highly successful formula for the fifth generation?

Well, the changes were not dramatic at first glance, but definitely satisfying. For 2013 —new models arrive in showrooms this summer —Nissan has carefully resculpted the front and rear, refined the interior, added more seat comfort (with a little help from NASA), and made it more fun to drive.

Altima has been carefully crafted outside to retain its sleek look, but now it has a more rounded, classier look; a sweet new contour across the front fenders, a smoother profile.

The only mistake by designers, in my mind, is messing with the rear taillight cluster. It had been one of the sharpest, most distinct arrangements on the road today and now it blends



Nissan attempts to add allure to the humdrum mid-size sedan with its 2013 Altima.

MCT

in more with the trendy wrap-around designs of some competitors.

It's comparable in size to the previous generation, with the same wheelbase but nearly an inch longer in overall length and just over an inch wider. That, by the way, translates to more

shoulder room inside.

The entire cabin, actually, is quite roomy. Headroom and legroom are more than ample.

Seats are comfortable and supportive in all the right places —Nissan attributes its seat design to NASA's zero-gravity seats on the space shuttle, de-

signed for comfort on the long haul. Good to know in case you're headed to the space station or, perhaps, cross-country.

A huge center console offers great storage, and long cargo fits nicely within the broad pass-through from the trunk. The trunk offers 15.4 cubic feet of

space, which ranks about average for the segment.

The Altima also is more refined and classier-looking inside. Materials now have a look and feel of an upscale car.

But, undeniably, it's Altima's high-tech gadgetry —some of which is found only on higher-priced cars —that will bring the raised eyebrows and nods of approval.

Kick on the engine with a push-button start. Then, before you go, make that Bluetooth hands-free call. The phone system even allows streaming audio and text messaging.

Starting to rain? Headlights will turn on when the windshield wipers swipe four times. Clever.

A 4-inch LCD screen, situated between the speedometer and tach, is recessed and tilted backward for easy visibility. In it you can see a clear rear-view monitor for safely getting out of the driveway. In higher-line models, you get a 7-inch screen.

Opt for the tech package and you also get lane departure and blind spot warnings, and a moving-object recognition system helps spot a wandering toddler. And get this: The rear camera has its own wash-and-dry system to keep the images clean and sharp.

Another cool feature is Altima's easy-fill tire-pressure monitoring system: The car will chirp when tires have reached the correct pressure.

On the road, the front-wheel-drive Altima provides a smooth, quiet ride. But that doesn't mean you can't have some fun along the way.

Altima's familiar 2.5-liter engine returns but has been tweaked and brings along 7 more horses for the ride —now producing 182 horsepower.

This popular powerplant provides enough oomph for most folks from the stoplight, up the ramp or when they kick it into passing gear.

A 3.5-liter V-6, though, is available and ups the throttle response. It gets 270 hp and gets up to 60 mph in 6.2 seconds, according to Edmunds.

Regulating the speed is Nissan's CVT called Xtronic. If you've read me before, you'll know I am not a big fan of the CVT and its whining sound as it runs up to speed. But Altima's new CVT is smooth and quiet and, frankly, I had to remind myself that the Altima had a CVT.

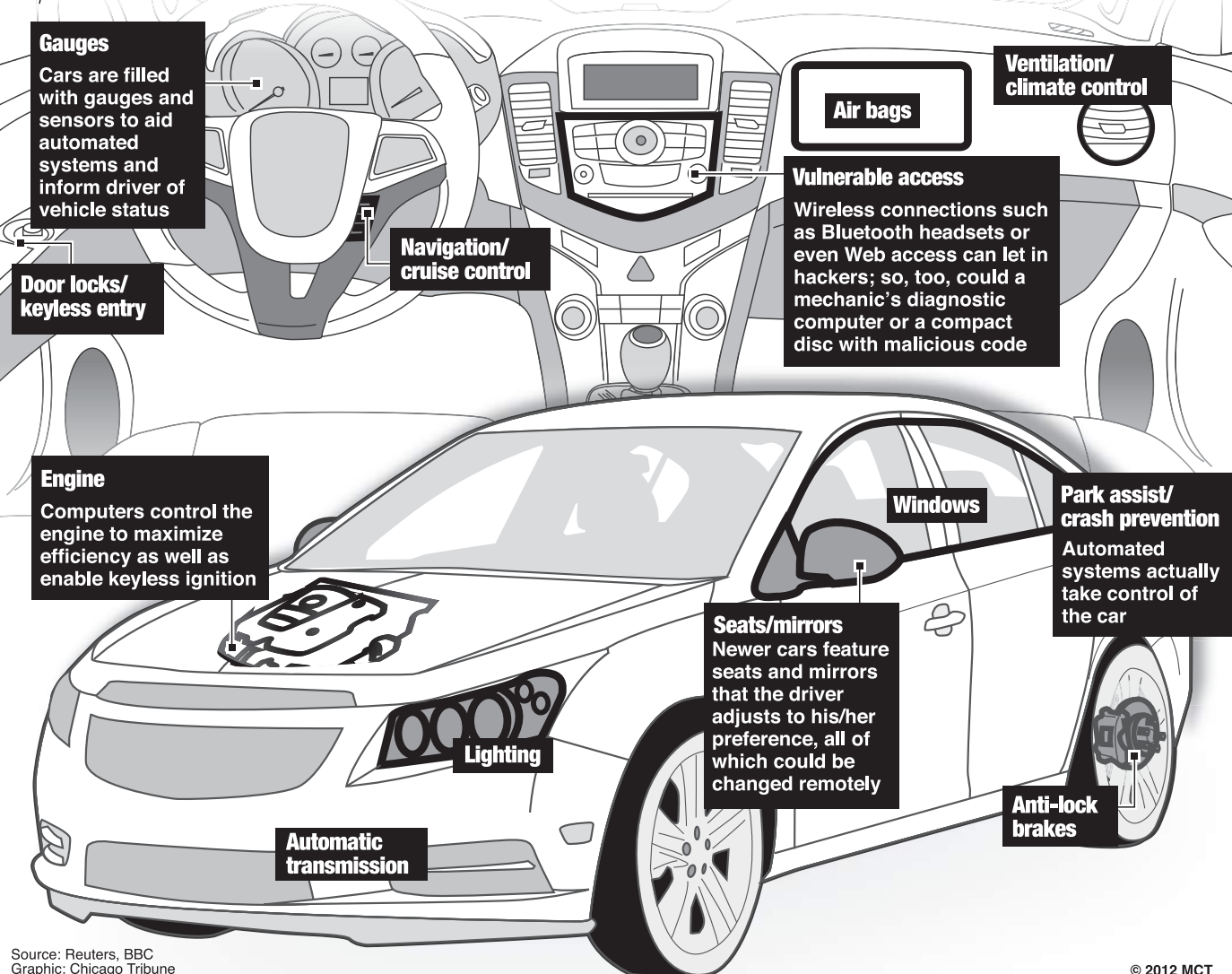
And Nissan has said its redesigned CVT has translated to a 15-percent boost in mileage: 27 mpg city, 38 on the highway. Those are incredible figures, perhaps as good as it gets in the segment. The V-6 gets 22 city, 31 highway.

Steering is wonderfully crisp, aided by Nissan's "electromechanical" assist, a deviation from all-electric-assisted steering.

On corners or the highway, Altima offers confident handling. A retuned rear suspension gets some of the credit for that.

What computers control in your car

From fuel economy to entertainment systems, computers monitor and regulate just about everything in a car. Automakers are trying to improve the cyber security of their vehicles. Cars employ dozens of little computers called electronic control units, and more computers means more opportunities for malicious hackers to wreak havoc with potentially dire consequences. Imagine a car's engine shutting off on the freeway or steering assist guiding a car into an obstacle. A sampling of automobile systems that depend on computers.



Source: Reuters, BBC
Graphic: Chicago Tribune

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NUTS & BOLTS

Base price: \$21,500
Price as tested: \$25,400

With the high-tech safety gadgetry, every Altima for 2013 also gets ABS and stability control standard, plus front-seat side bags and side curtain air bags.

In terms of body style, the Altima is what it is: a four-door sedan. No coupes, no hatches, no ragtops. But there are a number of trim choices.

The base 2.5 has steel wheels, unfortunately, but does have full-power on the accessories, keyless ignition and Bluetooth phone connectivity. Still, better to go with 2.5S which adds cruise control, automatic headlights and a better sound system. The SV gets you alloy wheels, a slightly bigger LCD screen with rear-view camera and even better sound system.

The top-line SL adds xenon headlights, sunroof, leather seats and 9-speaker Bose sound. The optional navigation package gets a 7-inch color screen but is only available on the 2.5 and 3.5 SV versions.

Altima is in a tough class, what with the Camrys and Accords leading the way. But, with careful design changes outside and upgrades inside, the 2013 Altima is up to the challenge.

Life&Style

Lawrence nearly passed on 'Hunger Games'

TORONTO (AP)—As Jennifer Lawrence prepares to start shooting the next installment of "The Hunger Games," she's thinking back to how she nearly turned down the role that's made her one of Hollywood's biggest stars.

Lawrence says she spent about three days figuring she would say no to playing Katniss Everdeen, the hero of the action franchise set in a post-apocalyptic North America where teens are forced to fight in televised death matches.

The 22-year-old actress said

she had envisioned remaining where she started, in smaller independent films, and that "just saying yes to this one thing could completely change my life, and I don't know if it's going to be for the better," Lawrence said in an interview over the weekend at the Toronto International Film Festival, where her comic drama "Silver Linings Playbook" premiered.

Lawrence already had a taste of studio life with the ensemble superhero tale "X-Men: First Class," a role that came her way because of "Winter's Bone," the 2010 low-budget Ozarks crime tale that earned her a best actress Academy Awards nomination.

She ultimately agreed to do "The Hunger Games" for the same reasons she does indie flicks—and because of some straight talk from her mom.

"She was like, 'You're being a hypocrite, because you always say you don't care about the size of the movies.' Because when I was doing indies, everybody was always like, 'Why don't you ever do a studio?' I'd say, 'Because I don't care about the size of the movie. I care about the story,'" Lawrence said. "And my mom was like, 'Now you have a story you like, and you're not going to do it because of the size.'"

"The truth was, in the bottom of my heart, I wanted to do it. I wanted to play this character. I was scared of the aftermath, but you can't say no to things



Jennifer Lawrence, a cast member in the film "Silver Linings Playbook," poses for a portrait at the 2012 Toronto Film Festival, Friday, Sept. 7, 2012, in Toronto.

because you're scared. You just have to go for it."

Lawrence, who also stars in the horror tale "House at the End of the Street" opening Sept. 21, is trying to fit in smaller films between her busy schedule of "Hunger Games" and "X-Men" sequels.

In "Silver Linings Playbook," she plays a bit of a head case, an unstable young widow who falls for another troubled spirit, a man (Bradley Cooper) fresh out of a psychiatric ward after turning violent when he caught his wife cheating on him.

Directed by David O. Russell, the film co-stars Robert

De Niro, Julia Stiles and Chris Tucker. "Silver Linings Playbook" opens in theaters in November.

On Monday, Lawrence begins shooting "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," part two in author Suzanne Collins' trilogy. The third book, "Mockingjay," is being split into two films, the same way the "Harry Potter" and "Twilight" franchises handled their finales.

Lawrence had reservations about breaking "Mockingjay" into two parts—"until I heard how much money I would be getting," she said with a long laugh.

She said she initially thought it would be better to do the finale in a single film. When she got the news that it would be done in two parts, Lawrence was in the middle of shooting "The Hunger Games," and she re-read the books and thought about how much had to be left out in adapting the first one.

"You want everything in there, but you don't have enough room, and you're trying to decide what's going to get cut and what isn't," Lawrence said. "So it was a relief on the last one to know that we don't really have to cut anything. We have enough time, we have enough room to really tell this story to the fullest, and we don't need to cut anything."

"So that's my artistic answer. It's a very diplomatic answer. But what I'm really thinking is yacht, yacht. My own island."

Kristen Stewart braves crowds for 1st time

TORONTO (AP)—It's been tough for Kristen Stewart to be back out in public after revelations of an affair that led to her breakup with "Twilight" co-star Robert Pattinson.

Yet there's no place she would rather be than at the Toronto International Film Festival alongside her colleagues for the adaptation of Jack Kerouac's 1950s Beat Generation novel, "On the Road."

Stewart said she never thought about skipping the festival, where the film played ahead of its U.S. theatrical release in December.

She said it was important to be there with director Walter Salles and co-stars that include Kirsten Dunst and Garrett Hedlund, who like Stewart had worked for years to get the film made.

"We have been waiting for this thing to be unleashed for so long. It was sort of one of those situations where you just have to put yourself in your body and go appreciate the moment," Stewart said in an interview Saturday.

Recalling the film's world premiere at May's Cannes Film Festival, Stewart said, "I would have been happy standing at Cannes with the entire theater booing it as long as I was in that row with my cast and with Walter. We would have been fine. I feel so strong with these people, and it's so ap-

propriate. I belonged there."

Since Cannes, Stewart's personal life has unraveled as she admitted she cheated on Pattinson with her "Snow White and the Huntsman" director, Rupert Sanders.

The Toronto premiere of "On the Road" on Thursday was Stewart's first public appearance since, and she was greeted by hundreds of "Twilight" fans who came out to show support for the 22-year-old actress.

"You expect a lot of people at a 'Twilight' premiere, but showing up at an 'On the Road' Toronto film festival screening and seeing that amount of people is absolutely, disarmingly amazing," Stewart said. "It felt pretty cool."

"On the Road" has been on Hollywood's to-do list for decades, but previous attempts to adapt it for film always fell through.

Salles ("Central Station," "The Motorcycle Diaries") spent years developing the film, which stars Hedlund as beat generation free spirit Dean Moriarty, inspired by Kerouac's friend Neal Cassady, and Sam Riley as the author's alter-ego, Sal Paradise.

Stewart co-stars as Dean's first wife, Marylou, who joins him

and Sal on some of their crazed cross-country adventures.

The novel was a consciousness-raising experience for Stewart when she first read it as a high school freshman.

"Marylou and Dean are the type of people that I was inspired by. Initially, at 15 reading the book, going, God, these are the sort of people I've got to find. The mad ones," Stewart said. "And I am so not one of them, but maybe I could be. ..."

"The great thing about 'On the Road' is that it really can crack open your shell, and I definitely realized things about myself that I didn't realize before. That I can let my face hang out and not be too aware of it, and stop questioning myself and not be afraid of strangers, and stop being judgmental."

Coping with photographers and TV crews at Thursday's red-carpet premiere was a challenge.

"I was a little nervous, obviously. I'm always nervous before a red carpet," Stewart said. "To be honest, I was just kind of telling myself, like, just don't black out. Be there, don't just figuratively put your head down and barrel through it. Be there, appreciate it. Luckily, very, very much I was able to do that."

'The Possession' remains No. 1 at weak box office

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"The Possession" occupied the top spot at a nearly comatose box office.

The fright flick with Kyra Sedgwick and Jeffrey Dean Morgan playing the parents of a girl possessed by a demon earned \$9.5 million in its second outing, the lowest grossing weekend for the box office this year and one of the worst weekends at the box office in a decade. It marked the first time since 2008 that no film managed to crack the \$10 million mark.

The bootlegging tale "Lawless" starring Shia LaBeouf, Tom Hardy and Jessica Chastain kept a lock on the No. 2 position in its second weekend with \$6 million, bringing its total haul to \$23.5 million, while "The Words" featuring Bradley Cooper as an aspiring writer and Zoe Saldana as his girlfriend debuted in third place with \$5 million.

A pair of action sequels rounded out the top five films. The ensemble flick "The Expendables 2" earned \$4.7 million in its fourth weekend, while "The Bourne Legacy" captured \$4 million in its fifth outing at the box office. "Expendables 2" also picked up \$14 million internationally in 23 territories, and "Bourne Legacy" nabbed \$13 million in 49 territories.

1. **"The Possession,"** \$9.5 million (\$3.5 million international).
2. **"Lawless,"** \$6 million (\$1.4 million international).
3. **"The Words,"** \$5 million.
4. **"The Expendables 2,"** \$4.7 million (\$14 million international).
5. **"The Bourne Legacy,"** \$4 million (\$13 million international).
6. **"ParaNorman,"** \$3.8 million (\$2.4 million international).
7. **"The Odd Life of Timothy Green,"** \$3.6 million.
8. **"The Campaign,"** \$3.5 million.
9. **"The Dark Knight Rises,"** \$3.3 million (\$13 million international).
10. **"2016: Obama's America,"** \$3.3 million.

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★ NOW SHOWING ★



The Possession

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:50
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:50
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:25	7:25	

Cast: Jeffrey Dean Morgan, Kyra Sedgwick
 Thriller, Horror • Rated PG13

Synopsis

Inspired by Los Angeles Times writer Leslie Gornstein's article "A Jinx in a Box," this horror film from Ghost House Pictures and director Ole Bornedal (Nightwatch) tells the tale of a broken family that comes under attack from a malevolent supernatural entity of Jewish folklore. Shortly after her parents (Jeffrey Dean Morgan and Kyra Sedgwick) divorce, a young girl purchases an ornate antique box at a yard sale. In the weeks that follow, the young girl forms an intense fixation on the box, her behavior growing increasingly bizarre as she falls into the grip of a diabolical apparition. When the girl's father discovers that the relic is in fact a holding cell for the disconnected soul of a deceased person who has been denied entry into the afterlife and needs a human host to inhabit, he fights to rid her of the evil that threatens to consume her body and soul.



The Odd Life of Timothy Green

Friday		4:05	7:10	9:35
Saturday	1:20	4:05	7:10	9:35
Sunday	1:20	4:05	7:10	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:05	7:10	

Cast: Jennifer Garner, Joel Edgerton
 Comedy, Drama, Fantasy • Rated PG

Synopsis

A happy husband and wife receive a most unexpected gift in this enchanting fantasy drama from Academy Award-nominated writer/director Peter Hedges (What's Eating Gilbert Grape?, Dan in Real Life). Jim (Joel Edgerton) and Cindy Green (Jennifer Garner) are deeply in love and planning to start a family in Stanleyville when one night, during a thunderous storm, a young boy named Timothy (CJ Adams) comes knocking at their door. In time, the prospective new parents and their curious neighbors discover that the most amazing things can happen just when you least expect it.

★★★



Step Up: Revolution

Friday		4:30	7:30	10:00
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	10:00
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:30	7:30	

Cast: Ryan Guzman, Kathryn McCormick
 Drama • Rated PG13



Hit and Run

Friday		4:20	7:20	9:40
Saturday	1:00	4:20	7:20	9:40
Sunday	1:00	4:20	7:20	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:20	7:20	

Cast: Dax Shepard, Bradley Cooper
 Action • Rated R



The Expendables 2

Friday		4:10	7:05	9:55
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:05	9:55
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:05	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:10	7:05	

Cast: Sylvester Stallone, Jason Statham, Jet Li
 Action • Rated R



ParaNorman

Friday		4:15	7:15	9:30
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	9:30
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:15	7:15	

Cast: Susan Duceck, Donna Lynn Leavy
 Children's/family • Rated PG



Bourne Legacy

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:45
Saturday	1:05	4:00	7:00	9:45
Sunday	1:05	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Tuesday		4:00	7:00	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Rachel Weisz
 Spy film, Action • Rated PG13

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Smothering mom looks for way to break free from her habit

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am a 62-year-old lady who has been a dedicated mother, helpful grandma and a good wife. I don't mean to imply that I'm perfect, but my heart has always been in the right place.

I'm writing now because I have a problem. I have been so used to being a mother that now I don't know how to break the habit. My children think I do too much for them, and it hurts me when they call me "annoying" and "impossible to deal with."

I wish I could act differently, but I don't know how. I've been told I need to do something with my life other than help my kids when they don't seem to need it—and even when they do. I know I deserve to be happy, but I don't know how to start. Can you tell me what to do, Abby?

MELANCHOLY MAMA, WENATCHEE, WASH.

DEAR MELANCHOLY: You are a successful wife and mother, having raised independent children. Now it's YOUR turn.

Think back to before you were married and had children—what were your interests? Was there a class or subject you wanted to take at a community college? Did you want to act in a play, paint a picture, photograph a landscape, read Shakespeare, join a hiking club, travel the U.S., learn to dance? Learn to speak French, plant a garden, raise rabbits, write a novel or the story of your life, study architecture, learn more about the stock market, raise funds for your favorite charity, or (you fill in the blank)?

If you still can't get the urge to "mother" out of your system, consider becoming a foster parent—or volunteer at a school, children's hospital or as a literacy tutor at your local library. The possibilities are endless and the need is great.

Please let me know what you decide to do from the hundreds of options available. You have a lot to offer.

■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: "Jamie" and I have been close friends for almost 50 years. She has always been there for me when I needed her and vice versa. However, I can't get past her continual bragging about herself every time we meet for lunch or talk on the phone.

Jamie always manages to bring up how some person told her how young she looks, or another told her she's a wonderful manager at work, etc. Yesterday at lunch I mentioned how much I love doing crossword puzzles. I said I love learning new words and if I don't know the meaning, I look it up in my dictionary. Jamie replied she doesn't need a dictionary because she knows the meaning of ALL words!

Jamie is a good friend, but lately I've been wondering why she feels the need to spin tales. She is always out to impress everyone with how smart, young, savvy and sophisticated she is. She even told me some of her co-workers compare her to Jackie Kennedy, which is nowhere near the truth. Why do you think she has to act like this?

PERPLEXED IN PHILLY

DEAR PERPLEXED: Jamie's behavior is a sign of extreme insecurity. People who are comfortable with themselves do not feel the need to constantly self-promote as she does. When your friend announced that she doesn't need a dictionary because she knows the meaning of all words, you were kind not to contradict her, because it's obvious she doesn't appear to be familiar with the definition of "humility."

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Abby shares more than 100 of her favorite recipes in two booklets: "Abby's Favorite Recipes" and "More Favorite Recipes by Dear Abby." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$14 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Cookbooklet Set, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)



Dear Abby

Emma Watson is most 'dangerous' cyber celeb

NEW YORK (AP)—Emma Watson is the favorite celebrity bait for cyber criminals trying to lure Internet users.

McAfee said Monday that the "Harry Potter" star is the "most dangerous" celebrity to search for online. That's because many sites use Watson to trick users into downloading malicious software or to steal personal information.

When searching for the 22-year-old Watson, there's a one-in-eight chance of landing on a malicious site.

This is the sixth time the Intel-owned security technology company has conducted the study, which was last year topped by Heidi Klum. Female celebrities are far more likely to be utilized by cyber criminals: late-night host Jimmy Kimmel was the only male in the top 20.

Others among the riskiest celebrities to search online are Jessica Biel, Eva Mendes, Selena Gomez and Halle Berry.



This Sept. 6, 2012 file photo shows actress Emma Watson at the MTV Video Music Awards in Los Angeles.

AP

Johnny Depp shares 'ink' with Damien Echols

TORONTO (AP)—The man Johnny Depp helped release from Arkansas' death row has become like a brother to him, right down to getting matching tattoos.

"We have some," Depp said Saturday as he touched a tattoo on the right side of his chest.

"This one Damien designed. It's one of my all-time favorites, and it means quite a lot to me," Depp told The Associated Press before the premiere of the documentary, "West of Memphis," about Damien Echols and his two co-defendants.

Echols said whenever he and Depp get together, they often end up in a tattoo parlor. Depp



Depp

Baldwin spent 18 years in prison for the 1993 murders of three 8-year old boys in West Memphis. All three were released after agreeing to an Alford plea that allowed them to maintain their innocence while pleading guilty.

The three were the subjects of the "Paradise Lost" documentaries, which captured Depp's

said it's about "celebrating the moment."

Echols, Jessie Misskelley, and Jason

interest in the case.

"You saw those initial documentaries, you make a choice: Am I going to watch the thing and go 'Wow, that's really horrible,' and go out and get a milkshake," Depp said.

Depp, along with Pearl Jam's Eddie Vedder, Natalie Maines of the Dixie Chicks, musician Henry Rollins, and filmmaker Peter Jackson, who produced "West of Memphis," helped pay the legal fees to free the three men.

The 37-year old Echols always wears sunglasses, a product of not seeing much daylight after spending so many years in a prison cell. Echols said

Son: 'Seagull' author Bach slowly healing

Writer Richard Bach, author of the inspirational best-seller "Jonathan Livingston Seagull," is able to speak a few words and respond to simple commands as he remains hospitalized in intensive care more than a week after his small plane went down in Washington state.

The 76-year-old Bach continued to recover from head and shoulder injuries Sunday at Harborview Medical Center in Seattle, but the healing process has been slow, his son said in an email to The Associated Press.

James Bach described his father as in "sort of a daze" from the Aug. 31 accident in which his small plane flipped over after hitting power lines on San Juan Island.

"Actually I'm learning that consciousness is not an all or nothing thing," James Bach said of his father's gradually im-

proving condition. "Although he can say a few words and respond to simple commands, he does not seem to know why he's in the hospital. It's possible that, at any moment, he may snap into lucidity."

Shortly after the crash, family members believed Bach already was lucid, but that turned out not to be the case. "My sister has since spent some time with him and we think we have a much better idea of how he is," the younger Bach said.

A nursing supervisor said Bach was listed in serious condition, as he has been since the day after the crash.

Last week, federal investigators posted a preliminary incident report, which noted that the plane struck power lines but does not include any more details on what caused the accident.

James Bach, who has visited

the site about three miles (five kilometers) from a small airport where his father was going to land, believes it was the fact that several power lines in the area are of varying thickness and visibility, which may have fooled his father, an experienced aviator.

"You can hardly see them. I also flew over the site and I couldn't see them from the air. We think he mistook the thick black wires in the distance for the ones that he was actually warned about," he said.

Richard Bach is best known for "Jonathan Livingston Seagull," a tale published in 1970 of a gull seeking to rise above the conventions of his flock. Simply written and immensely popular, the short book was a New York Times best-seller and landed Bach a cover on Time magazine, along with loyal following of readers. (AP)

Depp's support wasn't limited to Echols' time in prison.

"He's been with us every single step of the way. Since we've gotten out, he's become like a brother to me. And that's one of the things we always do just as part of that bond is whenever you get tattoos like that, it's something you carry with you through the rest of your life and it's really meaningful."

Penelope Cruz concerned about crisis in Spain

MADRID (AP)—

Oscar-winning actress Penelope Cruz says she is deeply



Cruz

concerned about the financial crisis engulfing Spain and how it might affect the future of the film industry in her native country.

The Hollywood star said she would like to encourage filmmakers to choose Spain as a location and perhaps use her status to promote co-productions there.

In a statement released Sunday through her agent Katrina Bayonas, Cruz said she also wanted "to rectify" what she called a misinterpretation of her words.

Cruz said an unnamed publication had quoted her as saying, "I will produce a couple of films a year in Spain to provide work for hundreds of people."

Cruz said the published words had "an arrogant tone" that had "nothing to do" with what she had wanted to say.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Harry completes 1st phase of Afghanistan training

LONDON (AP)—Prince Harry is finishing his first phase of initial training at Camp Bastion in Afghanistan. The 27-year-old Army captain arrived in Afghanistan for his second tour there on Friday but will not start flying Apache helicopter missions for at least seven more days. On Sunday, the third-in-line to the British throne was expected to complete his two-day course in first aid, shooting, and roadside-bomb awareness. He then is to start Apache-specific preparation Monday, where

he will begin to familiarize himself with the helicopter's configurations for Afghanistan. The prince's previous posting as a battlefield air traffic controller in Afghanistan in late 2007 and early 2008 lasted only 10 weeks. It was cut short amid fears for his safety after his deployment was made public.

Shark expert Ron Taylor dies; helped make 'Jaws'

SYDNEY (AP)—Ron Taylor, a beloved Australian marine conservationist who helped film some of the terrifying underwa-

ter footage used in the classic shark thriller "Jaws," has died after a long battle with cancer. He was 78. Close family friend Andrew Fox says Taylor died Sunday after a two-year battle with leukemia. Fox and his father, famed shark attack survivor Rodney Fox, worked with Taylor on shark conservation efforts for decades. In 1974, director Steven Spielberg asked Taylor and his wife, Valerie Taylor, to capture footage of a great white shark for "Jaws." Spielberg used Taylor's footage in a now-iconic scene in which the shark in the film tears apart a cage holding one of the main characters.

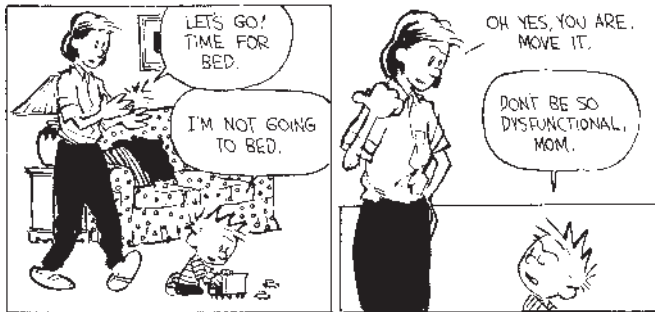
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

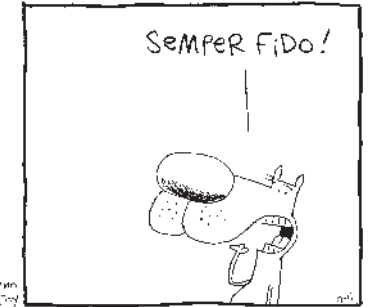
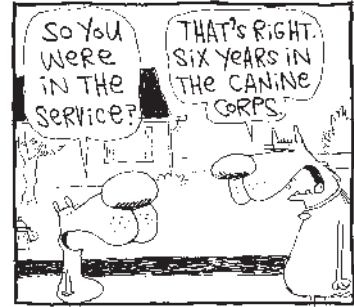


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

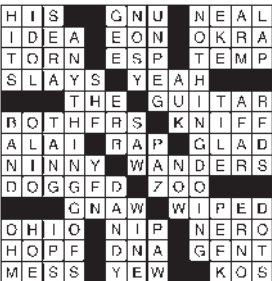


CROSSWORD

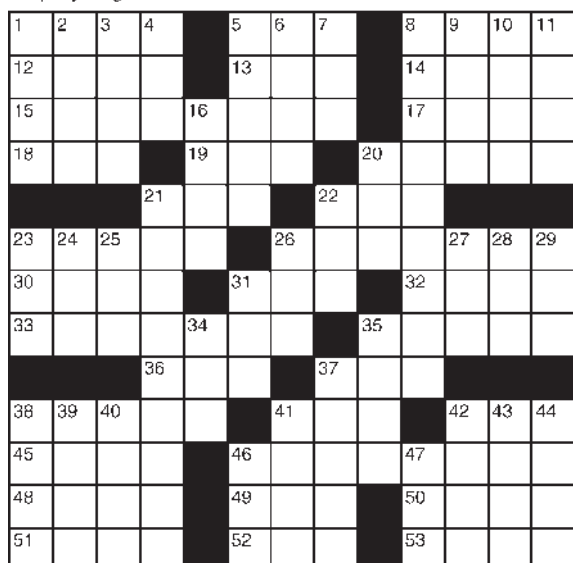
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Creche trio
- 5 Impress greatly
- 8 Rhett's last word
- 12 Terrible guy?
- 13 "Holy cow!"
- 14 Toast topper
- 15 Collapse
- 17 Existed
- 18 Squid's protector
- 19 Cover
- 20 Prepare to propose
- 21 Enthusiast
- 22 Icemen's org.
- 23 Dawdle
- 26 Rocket launcher
- 30 Lotion additive
- 31 Moonshine container
- 32 Desertlike
- 33 Adorned with gems
- 35 "Golden Boy" playwright
- DOWN**
- 36 Parcel of land
- 37 "Help!"
- 38 Pitch
- 41 Occupation, for short
- 42 Hot tub
- 45 George-town athlete
- 46 Parachutist's thrill
- 48 Mimicked
- 49 Gun the engine
- 50 Astringent
- 51 Mrs. Dick Tracy
- 52 Have bills
- 53 Pleads
- 1** Cal-length
- 21** Mooches
- 22** Gripe constantly
- 23** — Mahal
- 24** Milwau-kee product
- 25** Queue
- 26** Unopened flower
- 27** Raw rock
- 28** Set of equipment
- 29** Commercials
- 31** Lustrous black
- 34** De-pressed
- 35** Seep slowly
- 37** Colander
- 38** Just one of those things?
- 39** Crosby's longtime pal
- 40** Deli loaves
- 41** Make 24-Down
- 42** Bargain
- 43** Advertise
- 44** Charitable donations
- 46** To and —
- 47** "Terrific!"

Solution time: 21 mins.



Yesterday's answer 9-11



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Mike Comrie, 32; Taraji P. Henson, 42; Harry Connick Jr., 45; Virginia Madsen, 51.

Happy Birthday: What you do for others will not go unnoticed. However, you must structure your help properly so you aren't taken advantage of in the process. Offering suggestions and physically helping someone is fine, but don't pay cash. Excess will be what holds you back. A tendency to overreact and overindulge is apparent. Curb your habits. Your numbers are 5, 7, 19, 21, 28, 35, 42.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't stay home when you should be out meeting new people or doing something that interests you. Put more emphasis on making self-improvements and not trying to change those around you. Don't let responsibilities get you down. **

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Keep things moving along smoothly by taking the time to listen to others and consider what you can do to make things better. You'll have stellar solutions and should not spare detail when discussing your plans. ****

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Keeping busy is the name of the game. Altering your schedule or taking a moment to enjoy someone or something will give you the boost you need and help temper any negativity you've faced throughout your day. Love is highlighted. ***

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Refrain from sulking or being secretive and it will help you resolve any matter you face. You should be enjoying family and friends

or doing something special with the one you love most. Home improvements will pay off. ***

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You may feel like sharing, but you are best to be secretive to avoid interference. Don't trust someone who claims to understand what you are trying to do. Disloyal promises will be made to find out what you are up to. ***

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Proceed with caution when dealing with influential people. Being agreeable may go against your better judgment, but in the end, it will get you what you want. Take action and show results instead of just talking about what you can do. ****

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): You can't please everyone, so spend time improving your appearance, emotional well-being and your love life. It will be to your benefit to focus on you rather than offering to help someone who is making you feel guilty. **

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Taking on a project that motivates you will resurrect an old goal that you shelved out of frustration. An opportunity is apparent, but do not overspend in the process. Simplicity will be essential if you want to get the most out of your efforts. *****

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Expect to face opposition. You may feel confident that you can make changes without consulting the people influenced by your decisions, but in the end, you'll wish you had been more accommodating and thoughtful. ***

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD
IN ASTROLOGY
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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Do your very best to help someone struggling with something you find easy. Your patience and hands-on help will be rewarded. Don't let uncertainty cause you to make an impulsive decision that is likely to lead to an unexpected change. ***

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Don't worry so much when what's required is taking action to resolve pending problems. Anger is not the answer, but striving to be successful will put you in a much better position to handle any problems you face. Love is in the stars. ***

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Go where the action is. Mingling with people who can help you advance will bring results. Greater opportunities are in the stars and will manifest if you are upbeat regarding your ideas and plans for the future. *****

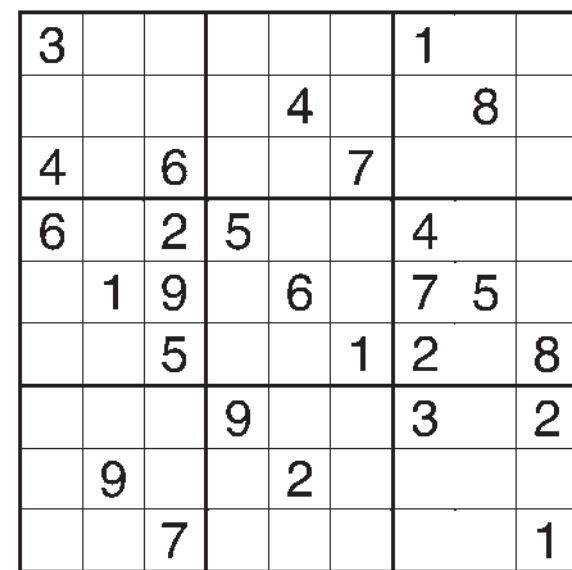
Birthday Baby: You are original, entertaining and sensitive. You are progressive and aggressive.

Eugenia's Web sites: eugenialast.com for confidential consultations, myspace.com/eugenialast for Eugenia's blog, astroadvice.com for fun

SUDOKU

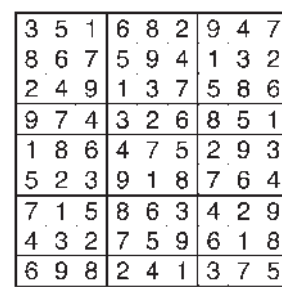
Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green



Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★

9/11

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

THE TOOTH FAIRY

Solution: 6 letters



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Awake, Baby, Believe, Book, Cash, Coins, Culture, Dads, Dime, Discover, Early, Fable, Fantasy, Find, Friends, Letter, Lose, Magical, Milestones, Molars, Moms, Money, Morning, Mystical, Nickel, Night, Older, Pain, Patient, Pretend, Remember, Remove, Search, Sleeping, Sneak, Spirit, Surprise, Tale, Teeth, Tiptoe, Tooth, Tradition, Treasure, Treats, Wand

Yesterday's Answer: Briquets

THE COLLECTED WONDERWORD: Wake, Baby, Believe, Book, Cash, Coins, Culture, Dads, Dime, Discover, Early, Fable, Fantasy, Find, Friends, Letter, Lose, Magical, Milestones, Molars, Moms, Money, Morning, Mystical, Nickel, Night, Older, Pain, Patient, Pretend, Remember, Remove, Search, Sleeping, Sneak, Spirit, Surprise, Tale, Teeth, Tiptoe, Tooth, Tradition, Treasure, Treats, Wand

CLASSIFIED ADS



CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
■ All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

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Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

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OPENING DATE - SEPT. 10, 2012
CLOSING DATE - SEPT. 14, 2012
Submit resume to saisteve@pticom.com

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MTC CORPORATION
(2) TOUR COORDINATOR – Salary \$5.55 - \$6.50 per hour.
Applicant must have at least 2 years work related experience. Be able to work on flexible hours including weekends and holidays. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be computer literate.
(4) TOUR GUIDE – Salary \$5.55 - \$6.50 per hour.
Applicant must have at least 2 years work related experience. Be able to work on flexible hours including weekends and holidays. Must have excellent communication skills. Must be computer literate.
Interested U.S. citizen worker must e-mail resume to: marianatourclub@gmail.com or fax to 233-3703.
MTC CORPORATION IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER.

ACCOUNTING MANAGER: Bachelors Degree in Business Administration major in accounting with a minimum 5 years experience in insurance financial management and possess good management ability. Proficient in MS Word, Excel, Power point, SAP R3 FICO system, and the insurance Geniisys program. Must possess good understanding of government and regulatory compliance procedures and requirements, excellent communication skills, as well as experience in interpreting financial reports. Preparation of NAIC Annual & Quarterly Statements, knows how to understand actuarial reports and auditing experience an advantage.
ACCOUNTANT: Must be a college graduate in Finance and Accounting with at least 5 years work related experience in insurance financial reporting and general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivable, payable, and investment management. Proficient in SAP R3 FICO system, MS Word and Excel software. Good analytical ability and proficient knowledge in use of computers. Must be able to work under time pressure and work flexible hours. CPA not required.
Applications can be obtained at and submitted to Century Insurance Company (CIC) office at the JP Center Building on Beach Road Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00PM, Thursday, September 13, 2012. Background checks and pre-employment drug testing will be required prior to employment.
Century Insurance Company, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer. Qualified Women, Minorities, Veterans and Persons with Disabilities are encouraged to apply.

WHATZIT Solution: No love lost

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US workers only. Commercial Cleaner. Apply in person at Marianas Eye Institute. No phone calls please.

WANTED TO BUY

We Need to buy 5 pcs Safety Box, Complete POS System Cashier Register. Please call Amy 234-6688.

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Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Close to NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. \$450-\$550/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/8 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. \$450/mo. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$600/mo. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. \$550. Pls. visit our website www.saipan-properties.com. Call for an appointment 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SIKDER MUHSIN, Plaintiff,
vs.
KAREN A. TAYLOR AND JOCINTA F. CLEMEN, jointly and severally, Defendants.
Civil Action No. 12-0124C
SUMMONS
TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANTS:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Verified Complaint, which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you.
YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, Guma' Hustisia, Jimwal Aweewe, House of Justice, P.O. Box 500307, Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon Plaintiff's counsel, Atty. Joe Hill, P.O. Box 500917, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail.
If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Verified Complaint.
BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT:
Dated this 31st of May, 2012
/s/ Clerk of Court

Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc. (HMBI) needs:
Open Date: Sept. 10, 2012 8:00AM
Closing Date: Sept. 11, 2012 5:00PM
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1 Baker
1 Production Clerk/Dispatcher
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McIlroy beats the best to win BMW Championship

CARMEL, Indiana (AP)—Rory McIlroy beat the strongest leaderboard in golf this year Sunday in the BMW Championship and joined some elite company.

McIlroy made back-to-back birdies around the turn to emerge from a four-way tie and seize control at Crooked Stick. He closed with a 5-under 67, making his only bogey on the final hole when it no longer mattered, for a two-shot victory over Phil Mickelson and Lee Westwood.

Everyone knew Boy Wonder was a special player when he won the U.S. Open last summer with a record score. The last month has established him as the dominant player in golf, with three wins in four tournaments loaded with the best players—the PGA Championship and two FedEx Cup playoff events.

McIlroy became the first player since Tiger Woods in 2009 to win in consecutive weeks on the PGA Tour, and with his sixth career win, he joined Woods and Jack Nicklaus as the only players to win at least six times at age 23.

“I didn’t think everything would happen so quickly, but I’m on a good run at the minute and I want to keep it going as long as I can,” McIlroy said.

Mickelson and Westwood tried to chase him down on the back nine at Crooked Stick, only to mistakes when they couldn’t afford any.

Westwood, who lost to McIlroy in the semifinals of the Match Play Championship in February, caught him with a birdie on the par-3 13th. But the weak area of his game showed up at the wrong time—a poor chip on the 14th for bogey, another pedestrian chip on the par-5 15th that led to par. He wound up with a 69.

“I played with him when he

was 13, and you could see it then,” Westwood said. “He’s just maturing all the time, as he will do. And he’s a very, very good player.”

Mickelson, tied for the lead going into the final round, was one shot behind when his approach flew the green on No. 12 and he had to scramble for bogey. Mickelson made back-to-back birdies late in the round to get within two shots of the lead, but he badly missed a 3-foot par putt on the 17th to fall three shots behind. He closed with a 70.

“A lot of people stayed neutral and Rory geared ahead,” Mickelson said.

Woods was never seriously in the mix. Five shots behind with seven holes to play, he made three late birdies and shot 68 to tie for fourth with Robert Garrigus (69).

McIlroy’s work is not done.

He is the No. 1 seed going into the FedEx Cup finale in two weeks at East Lake, but any of the top five seeds can win the Tour Championship and capture the FedEx Cup with its \$10 million bonus. The other four seeds are Woods, Nick Watney, Mickelson and Brandt Snedeker.

“Rory is putting on a show out there,” Woods said. “And we’ve got one more tournament.”

Any of the top 30 players who advanced to the Tour Championship have a mathematical shot at winning the \$10 million prize. One guy who won’t have that opportunity is Vijay Singh, who started the final round tied for the lead with Mickelson. The 49-year-old Fijian fell apart on the back nine with three bogeys in a four-hole stretch to fall out of the top 30. A birdie on the final hole gave Singh a 73, but by then it was too late.

McIlroy finished on 20-under 268 and earned \$1.44 million, pushing him to over \$7.8 mil-



Rory McIlroy, of Northern Ireland, holds the Western Golf Association's J.K. Wadley trophy, left, and the BMW trophy after winning the BMW Championship PGA golf tournament at Crooked Stick Golf Club in Carmel, Ind., Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012.

lion for the season to effectively lock up the money title and all but assure being voted by his peers as the PGA Tour player of the year.

He has four wins on tour this year—one more than Woods—and that includes a record eight-shot win at the PGA Championship.

This doesn’t rate as highly as winning a major at Kiawah Island, though the All-Star cast that he beat made it satisfying—Mickelson, Singh, Westwood, Woods, Dustin Johnson and Adam Scott all were within range of the lead going into the final day.

McIlroy not only beat them all, he managed to take the drama out of the final hour with a beautiful shot into the par-5 15th

that set up a two-putt birdie, followed by a birdie putt from just inside 15 feet on the next hole to build a three-shot lead.

He missed only one fairway in the final round, setting himself up on a rain-softened course to attack the flags. And that’s what McIlroy does best.

“He’s going out there and is up near the lead and posts a good number,” Woods said. “He’s doing the things he needs to do, and as he said yesterday, he’s feeling very confident about his game. Right now he’s just really played well, and he’s making a ton of putts. That’s a great combo.”

The 70-man field was whittled to 30 for the Tour Championship. Singh’s late collapse

enabled Scott Piercy to grab the final spot, despite a double bogey on the 14th hole and a bogey on the 18th for a 68. A day earlier, Piercy had a two-shot penalty for removing an out-of-bounds stake on the 14th hole.

But he’s in the Tour Championship, which puts him in all the majors next year.

Bill Haas suffered another Sunday meltdown at the BMW Championship, and this time it cost him. He was No. 28 in the FedEx Cup and started the final day in reasonable shape. He made seven bogeys and a double bogey and closed with a 78, falling out of the top 30 to miss the Tour Championship.

A year ago, Haas closed with a 78 at Cog Hill to lose an automatic

spot on the Presidents Cup team. But he made it to East Lake, won the Tour Championship to capture the FedEx Cup and the \$10 million bonus, and was picked for the Presidents Cup team, anyway. There is no second chance this time, adding to the biggest oddity of this series. For the sixth straight year, the reigning FedEx Cup champion will not be at the Tour Championship.

“When nerves are an issue and under the gun, I’ve got to be better,” Haas said. “And right now, I’m far from competitive.”

Haas wasn’t alone in his heartache.

Kyle Stanley was at No. 30. He had a triple bogey on the par-3 sixth, a bogey on the par-5 11th and closed with a 74 to miss out on East Lake by one shot.

Mickelson set the tone for this wild day when he pushed his opening drive so badly that he started to hit a provisional ball when he realized it clattered off the trees and back into the fairway, just 200 yards off the tee, though he safely managed a par. Then, he holed out from just over 40 feet off the green at No. 2 to take the lead, and kept a slim margin with a nifty up-and-down at the par-5 fifth.

But when he missed the green from the fairway on No. 7 and made bogey, the final round was wide open.

Ahead of him, Johnson chipped in for eagle on the par-5 ninth to create a four-way tie for the lead with Mickelson, McIlroy and Westwood.

Westwood made birdie from the bunker on the ninth, while McIlroy hit a towering shot that landed softly and set up a two-putt birdie that put them ahead at 18 under. Mickelson, playing in the final group, ran a chip out of muddled grass to 12 feet and made birdie to join them.

McIlroy stuffed his approach into 5 feet for birdie on the 10th, and he never trailed again.

Texas bats silenced by Shields in loss to Rays



ST. PETERSBURG, Fla.—B.J. Upton hit three home runs, James Shields threw a two-hitter and the Tampa Bay Rays beat the Texas Rangers 6-0 on Sunday.

Upton hit solo homers in the first, fourth and sixth innings. He struck out in second, and received a standing ovation before hitting a broken-bat grounder to third in the eighth.

Upton joined Evan Longoria (2008) and Jonny Gomes (2005) as the only Tampa Bay players with three-homer games.

Royals 2, White Sox 1, 10 Innings

In Chicago, Mike Moustakas stroked a go-ahead single in the 10th inning to lift Kansas City over Chicago. The Royals plated both their runs with two outs in the 10th off Brett Myers

(2-3), the seventh of eight White Sox pitchers in the game.

Angels 3, Tigers 2

In Anaheim, Calif., Zack Greinke pitched seven strong innings of five-hit ball and Mike Trout hit a leadoff homer for the second straight as Los Angeles beat slumping Detroit. Greinke (5-2) struck out seven in his fourth straight victory.

Athletics 4, Mariners 2

In Seattle, Jonny Gomes hit a three-run home run, Tommy Milone worked six strong innings and Oakland finished off a three-game sweep of Seattle. Milone (12-10) allowed eight hits and two runs, matched a career high with 10 strikeouts and had no walks.

Yankees 13, Orioles 3

In Baltimore, Slumping Curtis Granderson came off the bench

to hit his 35th homer and drive in five runs, and the New York Yankees beat the Baltimore Orioles to regain sole possession of first place in the AL East and earn an important split of the season series.

Blue Jays 4, Red Sox 3

In Boston, Omar Vizquel hit a pair of sacrifice flies, including one in the ninth inning that lifted Toronto over free-falling Boston. Toronto entered the series in last place in the AL East but left Fenway Park two games ahead of the Red Sox.

Twins 8, Indians 7

In Minneapolis, Justin Morneau hit his second homer of the game in the bottom of the ninth inning to lift Minnesota over Cleveland.

With one out in the ninth, Morneau hit the first pitch from Indians reliever Vinnie Pestano

(3-2) just inside the right field foul pole for his 19th homer of the season.

Astros 5, Reds 1

In Cincinnati, Matt Dominguez hit a three-run homer, Tyler Greene added a solo shot and the Houston Astros slowed Cincinnati’s run to the NL League Central title with a win over the Reds. Edgar Gonzalez allowed two hits and one run in five innings against the Reds, who came in with a magic number of 14 for eliminating second-place St. Louis. Gonzalez (2-0) walked one and struck out six.

Marlins 8, Nationals 0

In Washington, Ricky Nolasco tossed a four-hitter to shut out Washington for the second time in two weeks and Giancarlo Stanton homered for the third straight day to lead the Miami Marlins to a win over the Na-

tionals. Nolasco also doubled in two runs when Bryce Harper lost his fly ball in the sun.

Braves 3, Mets 2, 10 Innings

In New York, Brian McCann homered and drove in the go-ahead run in the 10th inning to lift Atlanta over New York for its fifth straight win. Martin Prado led off the 10th with a single against Bobby Parnell (4-4).

Cardinals 5, Brewers 4, 10 Innings

In St. Louis, Allen Craig hit an RBI single in the 10th inning and St. Louis beat Milwaukee to avoid a three-game sweep and hold its slim lead for the second NL wild-card spot. The Brewers tied it in the ninth on Norichika Aoki’s two-out, two-run homer off closer Jason Motte.

Cubs 4, Pirates 2

In Pittsburgh, Alfonso Soriano hit a two-run homer in the eighth inning to help Chicago

complete a three-game sweep of Pittsburgh. Soriano followed Anthony Rizzo’s leadoff single in the eighth with his second homer in as many days and 28th of the season.

Padres 8, D-backs 2

In San Diego, Chase Headley hit a grand slam to extend his career bests to 27 homers and an NL-high 102 RBIs, and Carlos Quentin followed with a homer for San Diego’s first back-to-back shots this season in a win over Arizona. Arizona, the defending NL West champions, dropped 6 1/2 games behind St. Louis for the second NL wild-card spot, with three teams in between them.

Phillies 3, Rockies 2

In Philadelphia, John Mayberry Jr. got the winning single in the ninth inning when left fielder Carlos Gonzalez failed to hold on to a diving catch, leading Philadelphia over Colorado in the opener of a day-night doubleheader.

Griffin shines as Redskins down Saints, 40-32



NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Robert Griffin III began his NFL career by connecting on 19 of 26 passes for 320 yards and two touchdowns, and the Washington Redskins handed the Saints a 40-32 loss in their first game since the bounty scandal that overshadowed New Orleans' offseason.

Griffin completed his first eight passes, including an 88-yard touchdown pass to Pierre Garcon, tying for the second-longest scoring pass by a quarterback making his NFL debut.

Rookie running back Alfred Morris rushed for 96 yards and two touchdowns. Aldrick Robinson, making his NFL debut, had a touchdown catch among four receptions for 52 yards.

Drew Brees uncharacteristically struggled with accuracy, completing only 46 percent of his throws with two interceptions. But his 339 yards passing and three TDs kept the Saints in the game until his last desperate pass was picked off by Reed Doughty near the Redskins' goal line.

Bears 41, Colts 21

In Chicago, Jay Cutler threw for 333 yards and two touchdowns and Michael Bush added a pair of scoring runs to spoil quarterback Andrew Luck's debut.

Brandon Marshall had nine catches for 119 yards and a touchdown in his first game since being reunited with Cutler, and Matt Forte ran for 80 yards and a score.

Luck finished his first NFL game 23 of 45 for 309 yards with a 4-yard touchdown pass to Donnie Avery early in the fourth quarter. He also was intercepted three times—twice by Tim Jennings—in an up-and-down effort as he steps in for the departed Peyton Manning.

Reggie Wayne caught nine passes for 135 yards. But it was a familiar result for a team with new management and a new coach in Chuck Pagano.

Broncos 31, Steelers 19

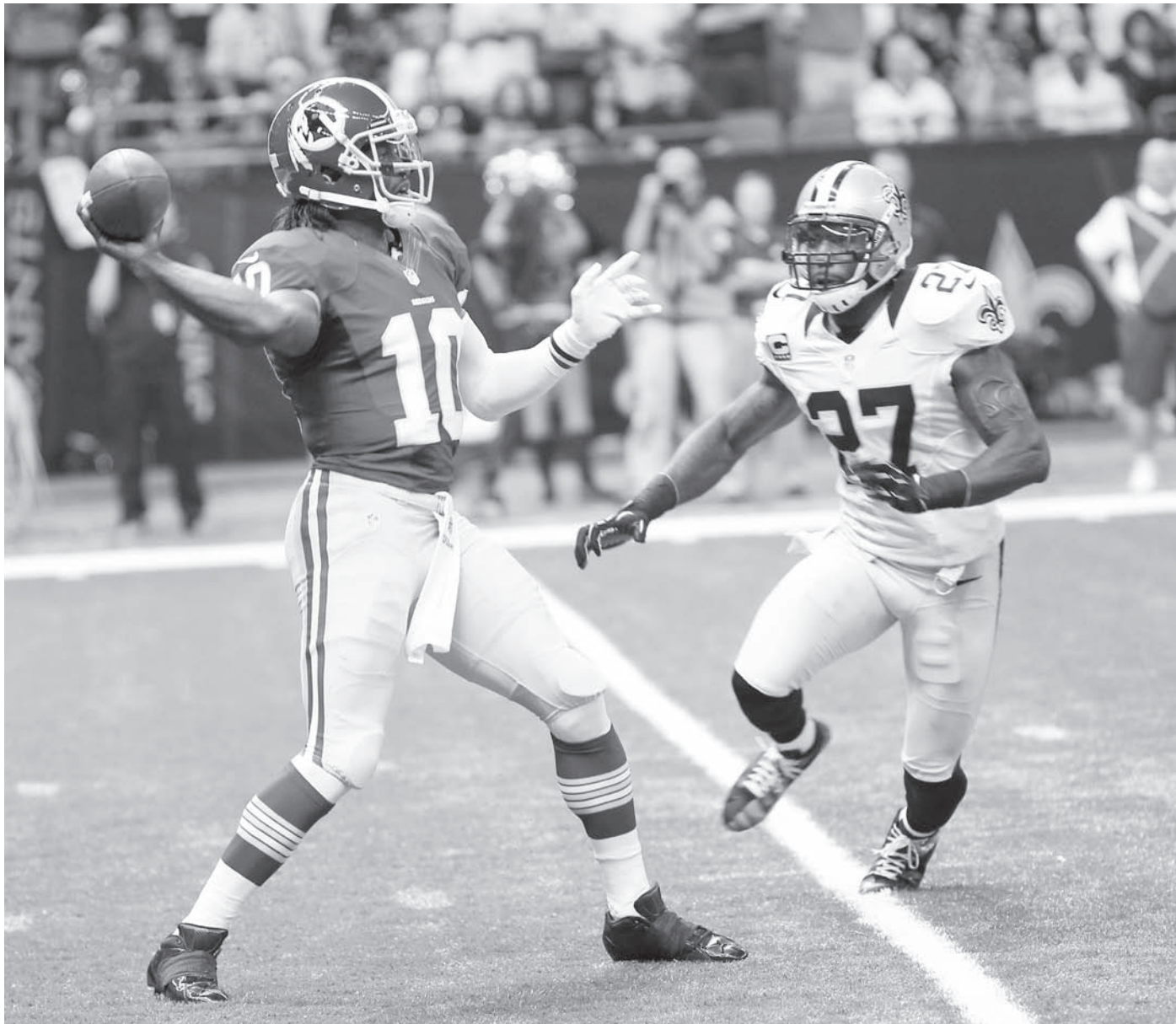
In Denver, Peyton Manning made a successful return from a year's sabbatical, leading the Broncos past the Steelers. The four-time MVP coming off four neck surgeries completed 19 of 26 passes for 253 yards and two touchdowns.

He got a big assist from another free agent, cornerback Tracy Porter, whose 43-yard interception return of a Ben Roethlisberger pass with 2 minutes left sealed the win.

Manning, jettisoned by the Indianapolis Colts in March after missing all of last season with a nerve injury that weakened his throwing arm, hit Demaryius Thomas with a 71-yard touchdown toss for his first as a Bronco. It was his 400th career TD toss.

49ers 30, Packers 22

In Green Bay, Wisconsin, San



Washington Redskins quarterback Robert Griffin III (10) throws a touchdown pass under pressure from New Orleans Saints free safety Malcolm Jenkins (27) in the first quarter of an NFL football game at Mercedes-Benz Superdome in New Orleans, Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012.

Francisco's defense smothered Aaron Rodgers and the Green Bay offense for most of the game, then made one last stand to stop a late rally.

The Packers rallied from a 16-point deficit in the fourth quarter, and pulled within eight points when Aaron Rodgers threw a touchdown pass to James Jones with 6:05 left, but the 49ers defense held the Packers in the final minute to come away with a big win to open the season.

Randall Cobb's 75-yard punt return for a touchdown and a 2-point conversion early in the fourth quarter cut the 49ers lead to 23-15. But Rodgers threw an interception to linebacker Navro Bowman and Frank Gore ran for a 23-yard touchdown.

David Akers tied an NFL record when he kicked a 63-yard field goal to the end of the first half, with the ball bouncing off the crossbar and going through the uprights.

Eagles 17, Browns 16

In Cleveland, Michael Vick overcame four interceptions by throwing a 4-yard touchdown pass to Clay Harbor with 1:18 left in the nerve-racking win.

Vick led the Eagles on a 91-yard scoring drive, capping it with his short toss to Harbor on his career-high 56th pass. Before Vick rallied his team, he played poorly and showed rustiness after playing just 12 snaps during preseason because of injuries.

Vick went 29 of 56 for 317 yards and two TDs.

Browns rookie quarterback Brandon Weeden threw four interceptions, the last to Kurt Coleman with 1:05 remaining.

Vikings 26, Jaguars 23, OT

In Minneapolis, rookie Blair Walsh kicked four field goals, including a 55-yarder as regulation time expired and another one in overtime, and Adrian Peterson returned from a left knee injury to lift the Vikings.

Peterson ran 17 times for 84 yards and two touchdowns for the Vikings, who led for most of the second half until Blaine Gabbert's 39-yard touchdown heave with 20 seconds left in the fourth quarter put the Jaguars back in front.

For the first time since the NFL's new overtime scoring rule was installed last season, the first team on the board didn't immediately run off the field a winner.

After Walsh's 38-yard kick, the Vikings had to play defense again while the Jaguars had their chance to match. But Gabbert was hurried into a fourth-down overthrow, spoiling the debut for new Jaguars coach Mike Mularkey.

Lions 27, Rams 23

In Detroit, Matthew Stafford threw a 5-yard touchdown pass to Kevin Smith with 10 seconds left.

Stafford made up for a shaky

game by leading an 80-yard, nine-play, game-winning possession that included three passes of at least 18 yards.

Sam Bradford directed a go-ahead drive that set up Greg Zuerlein's 46-yard field goal and put the Rams ahead 23-20 with 1:55 left. But coach Jeff Fisher's debut ended with a loss because the Rams could not shut down Stafford in the end.

Stafford had three interceptions before halftime for the first time in his four seasons. Cortland Finnegan had a 31-yard interception return for a TD that gave the Rams a 13-7 lead late in the first half.

Jets 48, Bills 28

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Mark Sanchez threw three touchdown passes, including two to rookie Stephen Hill, and the Jets eased concerns about their offense.

The Jets sprinkled in their wildcat package with Tim Tebow, who was mostly quiet but recovered a late onside kick by Buffalo, and Jeremy Kerley had a touchdown catch and a punt return for a score. Antonio Cromartie also took one of New York's three interceptions of Ryan Fitzpatrick to the end zone.

It was the most points the Jets have scored in a season opener. That's from a team that had many wondering what to expect after the first-team offense failed to score a TD in the first

three games of the preseason.

Meanwhile, Mario Williams, the Bills' big free agent signing, was quiet as the Jets' offensive line protected Sanchez all game.

Texans 30, Dolphins 10

In Houston, Arian Foster had two touchdown runs, Matt Schaub threw a TD pass to Andre Johnson, and Houston's defense dominated rookie Ryan Tannehill and Miami.

Tannehill threw three interceptions in a 6-minute stretch late in the first half, and the Texans opened impressively in what they believe can be a Super Bowl season.

Schaub threw for 266 yards in his first action since fracturing his right foot in Week 10 last year, and Johnson finished with 119 yards receiving. Texans defensive end J.J. Watt deflected two passes that resulted in interceptions and also had 1 1/2 sacks.

Marcus Thigpen returned a punt 72 yards for Miami's touchdown. The Dolphins gained only 275 total yards in coach Joe Philbin's coaching debut.

Patriots 34, Titans 13

In Nashville, Tennessee, Tom Brady threw for 236 yards and two touchdowns, and the defending AFC champions won easily.

Brady may have suffered a broken nose when he was sacked in the second quarter by Kamerion Wimbley, but he didn't miss a play.

The Patriots ruined Jake Locker's debut as Tennessee's starter, sacking him twice and forcing two turnovers. Rookie Dont'a Hightower returned Locker's fumble 6 yards for a TD in his own debut, and Stevan Ridley ran for 125 yards and a TD.

Also, Locker came out of the game after hurting his left shoulder when tackling safety Patrick Chung on a fumble return. He was replaced by Matt Hasselbeck.

Falcons 40, Chiefs 24

In Kansas City, Missouri, Matt Ryan threw for 299 yards and three touchdowns, one of them to Tony Gonzalez in his return to Kansas City.

Ryan also ran for a TD, while Julio Jones caught six passes for 108 yards and two scores.

The Falcons took advantage of a Chiefs defense missing four starters. Pro Bowl linebacker Tamba Hali was suspended for an unspecified violation of the league's substance-abuse policy, and three others were injured.

Kansas City matched Atlanta most of the first half, trailing 20-17 at the break. But a missed field goal by Ryan Succop early in the third quarter proved to be the turning point.

Matt Cassel finished with 258 yards passing for Kansas City, but also threw two interceptions and lost a fumble.

Buccaneers 16, Panthers 10

In Tampa, Florida, Tampa Bay's rejuvenated defense came up with two interceptions against Cam Newton and the Buccaneers won their debut under coach Greg Schiano.

Josh Freeman threw a 6-yard touchdown pass to Mike Williams and Connor Barth kicked three field goals to help the Bucs stop a 10-game losing streak that prompted the firing of former coach Raheem Morris. Schiano came the Tampa after spent the past 11 seasons transforming Rutgers from one of the losingest programs in college football into a Big East contender.

Newton threw for 303 yards and one touchdown.

Cardinals 20, Seahawks 16

In Glendale, Arizona, Kevin Kolb replaced injured John Skelton and led Arizona on the deciding touchdown drive, throwing 6 yards to Andre Roberts for a score with 4:59 to play.

Aided by two pass interference penalties, Seattle drove to the Arizona 4 in the final seconds. But rookie Russell Wilson threw three straight incompletions and the Cardinals held on.

Adding to the confusion, Seattle appeared to have called a timeout when it had none remaining, but that turned out to be a mistake by the replacement officials working the game.

SERENA

From Page 24

her lungs and needed to inject herself with a blood thinner. Those shots led to a pool of blood gathering under her stomach's skin, requiring another procedure in the hospital.

In all, she was off the tour for about 10 months, returning in 2011.

"She was so disgusted at home. She felt like she was useless. That's the way it is with athletes, I guess. She couldn't sit still," said Williams' mother, Oracene Price. "She was getting depressed. A lot to overcome."

Back on May 29, she lost to a woman ranked 111th at the French Open, the American's only first-round exit in 49 career Grand Slam tournaments.

"I was miserable after that loss in Paris. I have never been so miserable after a loss," Williams said. "I pulled it together. ... Sometimes, they say, it's good to lose."

Since then, Williams is 26-1, including titles at Wimbledon, the London Olympics and the U.S. Open.

"She's definitely the toughest player, mentally, there is," said Azarenka, who managed only 13 winners, 31 fewer than Williams. "And she's got the power."

Forget what the rankings say. Williams, who was seeded fourth, is dominating the game right now. And she's been dominant, off and on, for more than a decade.

She won her first major title age 17 at the 1999 U.S. Open. Winning titles 13 years apart at the same Grand Slam tournament represents the longest span of success in the professional era, which began in 1968. Martina Navratilova (Wimbledon, 1978 and 1990) and Chris Evert (French Open, 1974 and 1986) had the longest previous spans of 12 years.

"Yeah, three decades — the '90s, 2000s, 2010s," said Williams, who turns 31 on Sept. 26. "That's kind of cool."

She is the first woman in her 30s to win the U.S. Open since Navratilova in 1987.

Williams also showed a more mature side Sunday, avoiding the sort of flare-ups at officials that got her in trouble during her last two trips to the U.S. Open.

"This is the first year ... in a long time," Williams said, "I haven't lost my cool."

In the 2009 semifinals, Wil-

iams was angered by a foot-fault call that resulted in a double-fault, setting up match point for her opponent, Kim Clijsters. Williams launched into a racket-brandishing tirade that resulted in a fine and a Grand Slam probation. While losing to Sam Stosur in last year's final, Williams berated the chair umpire after being docked a point for making noise during a rally.

This time, there was a foot-fault call, too. Williams didn't react at all immediately, finished off that game, then stared down the linesman as she walked to the sideline at the ensuing changeover. He chuckled a bit.

"I'm just happy that she got through this one without any incident and was able to try to forget all that in the past," Price said. "Because I think that was a lot in her mind."

Actually, by then, Williams had bigger problems to worry about.

She double-faulted to get broken in second set's opening game, and got broken again to fall behind 4-1 in a game that featured Azarenka sliding into a running forehand winner and nearly doing a full splits. Even Williams applauded that one.

But when the game ended, Williams slapped her racket against her changeover chair.

That set was the first Williams had lost all tournament; she'd only dropped a total of 19 games through her first six matches.

While Azarenka, a 23-year-old from Belarus, doesn't have the name recognition or bona fides of Williams, she did win the Australian Open in January, and was 32-2 (a .941 winning percentage) on hard courts in 2012. She also hadn't dropped a three-setter all season until Sunday, going 12-0 in matches that went the distance, including victories over defending champion Stosur in the quarterfinals and 2006 winner Maria Sharapova in the semifinals.

As Sunday's deciding set commenced, Price told her daughter from the stands, "Settle down."

Didn't happen right away.

"Well, she's a human being, you know, who has two feet, two legs, two hands," Azarenka said. "It's understandable."

When Williams double-faulted, slapped a bad backhand into the net and pushed a forehand long, Azarenka broke at love for a 4-3 edge, then followed that up by holding for 5-3.

called for an offside. The play started with three MP United strikers going for an attack and passing the penalty arc while Wild Bill's defenders chased them and the ball. One of MP United players kicked the ball, which appeared to be rolling toward the goal, but Kim, who was near the goal line, decided to boot the ball. Kim ended up ramming into the net and the goal was nullified.

UCC takes early lead in Kanoa caging

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



UCC grabbed the early solo lead in the 2012 Kanoa Resort Women's Fall Basketball League after defeating Kiss My Pass, 54-51, last Friday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium of the TSL Sports Complex.

Before last weekend's match, both UCC and Kiss My Pass won their debuts, but the former managed to take the No. 1 spot and keep a perfect record after its 3-point win against the latter.

Rachel Abrams top-scored for UCC with 32 points, but it was her support crew's production in the fourth quarter that helped their team thwart Kiss My Pass' repeated comeback bids.

After Abrams nailed 4 of UCC's first 6 points in the fourth, Denise Samson, Kyla Ito, Lily Williams, and Madeleine Alegre made one basket each in the ensuing plays to secure the win.

Jeraldine Castillo also sizzled for 32 points for Kiss My Pass, but she single-handedly carried the team's fight in the fourth quarter. Castillo had 13 of their 16 points in the fourth canto and



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

UCC's Rachel Abrams fakes off the defense of Ichiban players during the opening game in the Kanoa women's caging last week at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

only two of her teammates contributed on offense in the final frame with sister Jeralyn adding two markers and Mae Ito making a free throw.

Kiss My Pass played catch up after falling behind at the end of the first period, 8-16. Abrams scored UCC's first 10 points and finished with 12 in the opening

canto for their 8-point advantage. She continued piling up points in the next two quarters before getting enough help in the fourth canto to notch their second win.

In the first game, IDK Who recovered from its debut loss to Kiss My Pass after downing Ichiban (0-2), 66-54.

FIESTA

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esta Resort & Spa, and thank you again to all the organizers, volunteers, umpires, parents, and players for helping us celebrate our 40 years of business in this region," said Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan.

Fiesta Resort 12, POI 5

In last Sunday's championship game, POI Aviation moved in front, 2-0, in the first inning from a passed ball and a fielder's choice that scored Patrick Tenorio and Lancaster Secharmidal.

POI's Frankie Camacho drove home T.J. Sablan to salvage a run in the bottom of the second inning, but Fiesta Resort knotted the score at 4-all in the top of the third off pair of fielder's choices and an RBI double by Rabaulman that delivered home Gavan Uchau.

Fiesta Resort's A.J. Lizama scored off a passed ball and a sacrifice fly lifted by Sablan that scored Rabaulman.

Fiesta Resort benefited from some pitching issues endured by POI's bullpen in the fifth inning as they built a 9-5 lead in the fifth inning.

A few seconds later, the buzzer sounded and the finalists were forced to select five players each for the shootout.

First to step into the penalty mark was Miller and his shot went into the deep left side of Wild Bill's goalie Greg Borja. Wild Bill's McAllister was next and this time, he went for a looper to the right and Petersberg failed to catch the ball.

Joon Lee broke the tie when

The team gashed POI for five runs off four hits, an error, and two wild pitches. Masaharu and Camacho each bagged an RBI single in the uprising. POI mustered just one run in the bottom frame from Secharmidal.

Fiesta Resort then added three more runs in the sixth inning as A.J. Lizama singled home Jonah Flores and Uchau reached off an error and crossed home off a wild pitch, while Rabaulman hustled on with fielder's choice and scored off an error.

POI's Secharmidal snuck around to score his fourth run in the final stand, but Fiesta Resort never had a doubt.

Fiesta Resort's Lizama swung 3-for-4 with an RBI, two runs, and a stolen base. Camacho went 2-for-3 with two RBIs, a run, and a base on balls. Rabaulman went only 1-for-4 but scored three runs with a stolen base.

POI Aviation 3, D&Q 2

POI's Kanoa Wanket drove in Davin Ada in the second inning, but D&Q Distributors awoke in the fifth frame and pulled in front, 2-1, from a two-RBI single by Craig Aguon that scored Steven and Jonathan Cabrera.

he also went to Borja's weak side with the ball rolling to the left. Unsa then evened up the count anew, when he went for a quick kick and Petersberg's lost his footing.

Del Rosario brought MP United back into the lead when he kicked the ball toward Borja's right side and the Wild Bill's goalie was a step slower in stopping the leather. MP United kept the driver's

seat, as Adul Detdon's shot at the center was tapped out by Petersberg.

However, Wild Bill's forced another deadlock when Borja dove for the ball, preventing Jireh Yobech from scoring and Westphal's lob went in.

Joon Lee was MP United's last shooter and delivered under pressure. Thoensaket did not. After Lee's kick rolled in toward Borja's left side, Tho-

ensaket trooped to the penalty mark, went for a quick kick, but the shot moved far left past the lower goal post.

MP United and Wild Bill's arranged their duel for the KFAS Cup after topping their respective pools. Also joining the Korean Football Association on Saipan-organized tournament were Docomo Inter, Tan Holdings, the host, and a guest team from Guam.

Kanoa Resort's Jonathan Cabrera drew a leadoff walk in the bottom frame and managed to knot the count at 2-all off a wild throw.

Then a pitching duel ensued from the fifth inning onward that ended up going five extra innings before D&Q finally succumbed to the eventual champs.

Fiesta Resort's Lizama led off the top of the 12th inning with a walk and was later brought to the plate via a sacrifice fly by Poland Masaharu, while Rabaulman singled on and was knocked in by Jonah Flores. D&Q went three up and three down in the last stand.

After trailing at the break, 21-23, IDK Who turned on the heat in the third period to grab the driver's seat, 47-34. IDK scored 26 big points in the third canto, while Ichiban was held to 11. The diminutive Negahr Rastguay anchored IDK Who's attack in the third quarter, firing 10 of her 20 points in that stanza.

Kaylani Rios picked up where Rastguay left off in the fourth period, drilling 9 straight markers at one point in the final canto to preserve IDK Who's double-digit winning margin.

First Game

IDK Who 66 — Rastguay 20, Rios 15, Padilla 12, Yiu 9, Arboliras 6, Pagarao 2.

Ichiban 54 — Z. Lizama 12, Lumabi 8, Pena 7m V. Bartolo 6, Gatchalian 6, Santiago 6, R. Lizama 4, C. Bartolo 3.

Scoring by quarters: 11-6, 21-23, 47-34, 66-54.

Second Game

UCC 54 — Abrams 32, Samson 6, Alegre 6, Lebría 6, Williams 2, Ito 2.

Kiss My Pass 51 — Jeraldine Castillo 32, Jeralyn Castillo 10, Ito 3, Mendoza 2.

Scoring by quarters: 16-8, 26-22, 40-35, 54-51.

runs in the third inning off an error and an RBI base smash by Jun Rabaulman that scored Frankie Camacho and A.J. Lizama.

Both teams' offense dimmed out in the latter half of the game as their corresponding pitchers turned in strong performances.

Fiesta Resort 5, D&Q 2

D&Q's Ton Guerrero reached and scored off errors for the first strike in the opening frame, but Fiesta Resort's Jun Rabaulman countered with an RBI double that scored A.J. Lizama before scoring of a passed ball.

Kanoa Resort's Jonathan Cabrera drew a leadoff walk in the bottom frame and managed to knot the count at 2-all off a wild throw.

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MP UNITED

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goals in the first half. Thoensaket gave Wild Bill's its lone goal in the opening half. Then in the second half, Will Bill's got a break when it was credited with a goal off Brad Ruzsala's error.

MP United had a chance to break the tie and win the finals outright with less than one minute left in the game, but was



Griffin shines as
Redskins down
Saints, 40-32

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Saipan Tribune Sports

McIlroy beats the
best to win BMW
Championship

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Serena comes back to win US Open

HOWARD FENDRICH
AP TENNIS WRITER

Given all of the setbacks Serena Williams shrugged aside over the years—on tennis courts and, more daunting, away from them—she probably shouldn't have been worried when she stood two points from losing the U.S. Open final.

And yet, she explained afterward, "I really was preparing my runner-up speech."



Finally tested, and even trailing, at Flushing Meadows,

Williams suddenly found her composure and her strokes, winning the last four games for a 6-2, 2-6, 7-5 victory over top-ranked Victoria Azarenka on Sunday night, collecting a fourth U.S. Open championship and 15th Grand Slam title overall.

"I never give up. I never, never quit," Williams said after the first three-set U.S. Open women's final since 1995. "I have come back so many times in so many matches."

In other ways, too.

She missed eight months after having surgery on her left knee in 2003, the year she had completed a self-styled "Serena Slam" by winning four con-



Serena Williams holds the championship trophy after beating Victoria Azarenka, of Belarus, in the championship match at the 2012 US Open tennis tournament, Sunday, Sept. 9, 2012, in New York.

secutive major titles. Of more concern: Only a few days after winning Wimbledon in 2010, Williams cut both feet on broken glass while leaving a restaurant

in Germany, leading to two operations on her right foot. Then she got clots in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO

MP United's Enrico Del Rosario, right, defends Wild Bill's Adul Detdon, while teammate Jehn Joyner tries to provide help during the second half of their title game in the KFAS Cup last Sunday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

MP United hoists KFAS Cup

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

MP United won the KFAS Cup after outclassing Wild Bill's in a penalty shootout, 4-3, last Sunday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.

The champion team is composed of forwards Yishan Wang, Jehn Joyner, Jireh Yobech, and Zheng "Messi" Xu, midfielders, Joe Miller, Joon Lee, Chris Park, Kim Feng Chun, Jake Lee, Evert Van Der Maas, Jinhan Yoon, and Daniel Lim, defenders Enrico del Rosario, Brad Ruszala, Kennedy Izuka, Greg

Kim, Chris Camacho, Bob Kim, and Jeong Hwan Kim, goalies Ben Petersburg and Greg Sablan, and coach Norman del Rosario.

Joon Lee drilled the go-ahead goal for MP United, while Wild Bill's Jack



Thoensaket missed the equalizer. Also scoring for MP United in the shootout were Miller, Kim, and del Rosario, while Wild Bill's goals came from James McAllister, Tanapon Unsa, and Dan Westphal.

The 40-minute finale went into a penalty shootout after the regulation ended in a deadlock, 2-2. MP United went up, 2-1, off Xu and Wang's

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TAN HOLDINGS 40TH ANNIVERSARY SPORTS FEST

Fiesta Resort tops youth baseball tourney

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Fiesta Resort & Spa won three games in a row en route to snatching the championship of the Tan Holdings 18U Youth Baseball Tournament that concluded last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Fiesta Resort's roster includes Frankie Camacho, Jake and Jonah Flores, Dave Hosono, A.J. Lizama, Poland Masaharu, Mike Muna, Jake Santos, Jun and Carlos Rabauliman, T.J. Sablan, Gayvan Uchau and, Kenji Yamagata. Walter Macaranas and Mark Flores coached the champion team.

Fiesta Resort won a \$500 gift certificate to be used for purchasing new sports equipment, and although there could be only one winner, the best part of the competition was all of the participating teams received sports equipment vouchers.



Fiesta Resort & Spa players are all smiles after winning the Tan Holdings 18U Youth Baseball Tournament last Sunday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Ballfield.

Runner-up POI Aviation took home a gift certificate worth \$400, a \$300 voucher was awarded to third placer

D&Q Distributors, while Kanoa Resort was issued a gift certificate worth \$200. The outcome of the tourney's open-

ing double-round robin matches from Sept. 1 and 2 resulted in Fiesta Resort entering last Sunday's four-game

marathon in the lower bracket with Kanoa Resort.

Fiesta Resort survived the knockout match, 4-2, and moved into the lower bracket semifinal where it ran into D&Q, who fell to top-ranked POI, 3-2, in the upper bracket semifinal that kicked off the games on Sunday.

Fiesta Resort duked it out with D&Q for 12 innings until it finally caught a late spurt for a 5-2 victory that pushed them into the finals.

Though Fiesta Resort had already played almost three games coming into the main event, the team was hardly finished and outlasted POI, 12-5, for top honors thanks to another late surge.

The event was coordinated by Saipan Major League Baseball Association officials Rose Igitol and Tony Rogolifoi. Funding and prizes were provided by Tan Holdings, which labeled the tourney as a part of its 40th Anniversary Sports Festival.

The celebration is being carried out in effort to show appreciation to its customers, and the community, for all of their loyal support over the years.

"We're so grateful that these young players came out for two weekends and played baseball. Congratulations to Fi-

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